

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Playoff matchups
set after Astros
take wild card**

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Astros pitcher Roy Oswalt



**Yokosuka
Navy Ball on
deck for Saturday**

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**Phoenix and cast
burn up screen
in 'Ladder 49'**

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Joaquin Phoenix

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

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Car bombs kill 21 at U.S.-Iraq HQ gates

100 hurt in blasts near capital's Green Zone and in Mosul Page 4

Welcome to India

7th Fleet arrives for Malabar '04



JOSHUA MILLAGE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

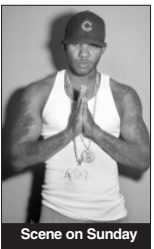
Above: Capt. John J. Sorce, front left, commanding officer of the USS Cowpens, observes operations as the ship pulls into port in Goa, India, on Sunday while Indian and U.S. Navy officers stand nearby. The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser, with USS Gary and USS Alexandria, are in India to take part in exercise Malabar '04 with the Indian navy. Right: A sailor aboard USS Alexandria hauls up the U.S. flag as the Los Angeles-class attack submarine ties up alongside the Cowpens.



RICK CHERNITZER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Mount St. Helens: Mount St. Helens belched more steam Monday after several days of tremors and low-level earthquakes that have raised fears that the mountain might blow at any moment.

It was not immediately clear how large Monday's emission was, or whether it contained ash, but U.S. Geological Survey geologist Willie Scott said any ash would fall mostly in the crater and not threaten any structures.

Sniper victims memorial: Montgomery County, Md., officials unveiled Friday the Reflection Terrace, a memorial to those who died in the October 2002 sniper shootings.

County Executive Douglas Duncan, who led the drive to create the memorial, told an audience of 200 that the snipers' three-week rampage was also "a time when we saw the strength of the human spirit," in how the community responded.

West Nile virus: A wild sparrow captured at Kahului Airport on Maui has tested positive for West Nile virus, the first indication that the mosquito-borne disease has made it to Hawaii.

If the initial test results prove accurate, then Hawaii's birds, "already suffering from avian malaria and avian poxvirus, will face the onslaught of West Nile virus," said David Duffy, a professor of ecology at the University of Hawaii, writing on a scientific listserve that tracks the disease.

World

Indonesian election: Voters gave former Gen. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono a landslide victory in Indonesia's first direct presidential election after he pledged to fight terror and fix the battered economy, according to official results announced Monday.

The U.S.-educated candidate will be inaugurated Oct. 20.

India attacks: Suspected separatist rebels attacked sleeping villagers in northeastern India on Monday, killing six in a third day of explosions and gun attacks that have left at least 63 people dead in India's insurgency-hit northeast.

Seven people were wounded when the militants opened fire with machine guns on families in Gelapukhuri, a village 130 miles north of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state,



Gaza campaign: An Israeli tank returns Monday from inside the Gaza Strip at a staging area next to kibbutz Metelmin along the northern border of the Gaza Strip. Continuing violence in Gaza on Monday killed at least seven Palestinians, according to the army and local officials, bringing the number of Palestinians killed during the six-day-old operation to 65. Three Israelis were killed during the fighting and two others were killed Wednesday in a rocket attack on Sderot.

said police officer P. Baruah.

Blair at work: Tony Blair returned to work Monday after an operation to correct an irregular heartbeat, as speculation continued about how long he will remain prime minister.

Blair's Downing Street office said he looked "fresh and alert" as he faced a full diary, including talks with government officials before a meeting Monday afternoon with aid agencies ahead of his departure on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Africa.

Thailand bird flu: A 9-year-old girl died of bird flu in northern Thailand, raising the country's death toll from the virus to 11, a Health Ministry official said Monday.

The death of Kanda Sriueang-On brought the region's human death toll from bird flu to 31, including 20 in Vietnam.

Ethiopian famine: At least 4 million Ethiopians would die each year without food aid, a British aid group said Monday, marking 20 years since a devastating famine killed more than half a million people in the impoverished country.

Now, foreign aid should focus on lifting

this nation of 70 million out of poverty, rather than just keeping people alive with food handouts, the Save the Children aid group said.

China fails on human rights: China has failed to act on long-standing international recommendations on the treatment of detainees, a key United Nations monitor said Monday.

Leila Zerrougui welcomed recent legal changes which have boosted references to human rights in China's constitution, but scolded Beijing for almost a decade of foot-dragging on improving conditions for people held in prisons, labor camps, psychiatric hospitals and police stations.

Business

Vioxx lawsuit: A Missouri woman has sued the maker of arthritis drug Vioxx over the 2002 death of her daughter.

The suit filed Friday by Caroline Nevels of Lexington came a day after Merck & Co. pulled the medication from shelves over fears users faced increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Vokosuka gearing up for an annual Navy Ball

Kitty Hawk strike group commander Rear Adm. James Kelly to speak at event

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Yokosuka, Japan — Lt. Greg Aydelotte had been in the Navy 20 years before he finally dragged himself to the Navy Ball. His expectations were minimal.

The ball was in a gym, for one thing. How elegant could it be? "You think it's going to be all soccer balls ..." Aydelotte said.

But no. There was not a soccer ball in sight. "Everybody was looking sharp," Aydelotte said. "The ladies looked sharp," he said, smiling at the memory four years later. Much to his surprise, Aydelotte found himself having fun. "After all the pomp and circumstance, it was party time," he said.

Now Aydelotte is this year's biggest Navy Ball promoter, as chairman of the base Navy Day Ball. Late last week, Aydelotte, who as the base's ammunition operations officer normally keeps track of missiles, bombs and bullets, was trying to keep track of tickets.

He sat in front of Starbucks fielding phone calls, ordering big-screen televi-

sions, being interviewed and still had time occasionally to shout out to passers-by he knew: "Got your tickets yet?"

The ball starts at 6 p.m. Saturday at Thew Gym. Tickets start at \$20 (for sailors up to petty officer second class) and top out at \$50 (for commanders and above).

The annual, traditional, formal event marks the anniversary of the U.S. Navy's commissioning. This year is the 229th anniversary, Aydelotte said. It's a formal affair, with men in dress blues, Navy women in regulation long, blue skirts and civilians in black tie.

This year, the ticket price was reduced by \$5 as part of a special effort to encourage attendance by more younger, enlisted sailors, who in the past haven't always shown a great deal of enthusiasm.

"They think of the Navy Ball, and they

think of us old guys standing at attention, listening to an admiral talk," said Aydelotte, 41.

An admiral does talk — this year it's Rear Adm. James Kelly, commander of the Kitty Hawk strike group. But people are sitting down at the time, at tables where they've just enjoyed a nice meal, Aydelotte said, in a gym so decked out in drapery, napery, bunting and bows, it hardly will be recognizable.

Adm. Kelly was out of town and could not be reached for a preview of his speech.

His aide, Lt. Cmdr. Ian Harwood, said no one knew what the admiral planned to talk about and that he usually kept such remarks purposely under wraps to prevent tampering.

"It's a tradition in the aviation community to get a hold of the CO's speech and

mess with it," Harwood said, "and I think he's learned from that." Harwood added that the admiral is an excellent speaker.

After the speeches, the 7th Fleet Band and a DJ are to be on hand for music and dancing. Cocktails will be available; the ball organizers were working on getting extra cab service and utility drivers to drive imbibing people home.

Last year's ball, which about 740 people attended, cost \$30,000. This year, the planning group had more to spend — and were able to reduce the ticket prices — because of increased fund-raising, partly from a car show, mostly in the form of selling barbecue.

"We made over \$15,000 just cooking burgers," Aydelotte said.

So there also will be door prizes and a \$1,000 college scholarship awarded.

Aydelotte said some ships already had sold all their tickets — the USS Kitty Hawk does so almost every year, he said. He said he wasn't sure how many tickets had sold.

One officer who happened by said he was indeed planning to attend, involuntarily. "It's mendo-fun for the wardrobe," he said.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryn@spjtimes.osd.mil

Uniform inspection



JAMES JUNIOR/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Chief Petty Officer Gepp Brucelas, combined bachelor housing manager at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, inspects a sailor during a dress blue uniform inspection on Monday. The uniform of the day at Atsugi shifted from whites to blues Monday and the inspection was held to ensure uniforms were up to standards.

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman to be in Tokyo

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is scheduled to be in Tokyo next week for the Oct. 11-13 Asia-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Conference, according to a U.S. defense official.

Myers is scheduled to be the featured speaker at the conference, co-hosted by the Japanese Self Defense Force and U.S. Pacific Command.

DODDS-Japan schedules Educator's Days

The Japan District of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific has set the dates for this year's Educator's Day.

Kanto Plain-area educators will hold Educator's Day on Oct. 15 at Shirley Lanham Elementary School at Atsugi Naval Air Facility. Sasebo Air Base's day will take place Oct. 18 at Edgren High School. Misawa Naval Base and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station educators will hold their Educator's Day on Oct. 22 at Iwakuni's Matthew C. Perry High School.

Community representative and parents are encouraged to attend and participate, according to a DODDS news release.

For more information, contact Peter Grenier at 225-3940.

From staff reports

Legal buzz kills GI's 'beer for soldiers' Internet site

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP RED CLOUD, South Korea — The 2nd Brigade soldier who created www.beerforsoldiers.com, a Web site that lets people buy a beer online for a U.S. soldier, has been ordered to stop running his site.

Sgt. Dale Rogers, in Iraq with Company C, 1st Battalion (air assault), 503rd Infantry Regiment, posted a notice on the site last week informing readers that he is turning it over to his brother.

A spokesman for the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which includes 1-503, said in an e-mail that lawyers from the unit rendered a legal opinion that the Web site violated the Joint Ethics Regulation.

"The soldier seems to be using his association with the Army as a way to solicit funds for beer. Whatever his intentions, and I'm sure they are genuine and pure, (the Web site is) ... illegal. I noted ... however, that the site is still up and running. I am confident it will be shut down soon," the spokesman said.

Last week Rogers posted a defiant message on the Web site in response to the order.

"I won't back down! Stand me up at the gates of hell and I won't back down," the message said, quoting a Tom Petty song.

"I am currently serving someone where outside of Fallujah, Iraq. My Web site is going through a

change; I am turning over this Web site to my brother due to legal pukes who say a soldier cannot solicit beer donations to increase the morale of his fellow soldiers. What a crock! But I am a soldier and I have to comply," Rogers wrote.

By Sunday night beerforsoldiers.com had adopted the slogan "The Web site where you cannot buy us a beer."

Rogers set up the site in February before joining 1-503 in South Korea, where the unit was based before deploying to Iraq last month.

Beerforsoldiers.com used to let donors click on links that charged their credit cards for anything from \$2 for a 40-oz. bottle of beer to \$6 for a "ball beer from the bar," to \$7 for a six-pack. Other donation options included \$10 for a "pitcher" or \$20 for a "keg club."

The site includes dozens of photographs of soldiers enjoying the beer.

In South Korea, Rogers spent money collected from the Web site buying drinks for soldiers at local bars.

He had intended to save money generated by the site while he is in Iraq, where soldiers are not allowed to drink alcohol, for drinks during a midtown leave in Qatar and a homecoming party for soldiers at the end of his one-year tour, he said.

Now, clicking on the "Don't buy us beer" link at beerforsoldiers.com takes you to a page with the word "violation" dis-

played six times, an invitation to the bar and the message: "We would still love for you to buy us a beer but the legal folks say you can't."

Donations rose sharply after Stars and Stripes ran a story about the site in September, he said.

An e-mail from Rogers stated he was ordered to "cease and desist" running the site at the behest of the Army's lawyers.

However, Ron Buchholz, a civilian attorney for the Department of the Army, Judge Advocate General, Standards of Conduct Branch in Washington, said he merely sent Rogers' command an e-mail stating that the site raised legal and ethical issues.

Buchholz said he has no authority to issue orders to soldiers but acknowledged that an order from Rogers' command may have been a response to his e-mail.

Federal regulations make it illegal for federal employees, including soldiers, to solicit or receive gifts.

But numerous complicated exceptions to those rules mean legal opinions often are sought when people want to give soldiers presents, Buchholz said.

The shaven-headed infantryman does not appear happy about the Army's ban on beer donations.

"You'd think that a soldier risking his life in a war zone, usually under enemy attacks almost daily, could at least have the right to maintain a morale booster for his fellow brothers, such as this Web site," Rogers said.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsd@spjtimes.osd.mil

Bombs explode near U.S.-Iraqi HQ; 21 killed

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents unleashed a pair of powerful car bombs Monday near the symbol of U.S. authority in Iraq — the heavily fortified Green Zone where the U.S. Embassy and key government offices are located — and hotels occupied by hundreds of foreigners. Two other explosions brought the day's bombing toll to at least 24 dead and more than 100 wounded.

The two car bombs ripped through central Baghdad streets about an hour apart. Two more vehicle bombs went off the northern city of Mosul, killing three people.

The attacks were the latest in the insurgents' swelling campaign of vehicle blasts. In September, militants carried out at least 39 such bombings — the highest number in any month since the Americans invaded in March 2003. Some of the near-daily explosions have caused only injuries, but others wreaked devastation, such as a series of vehicle blasts on Thursday that killed 35 children and seven adults.

Insurgents have also stepped up their strategy of kidnapping aimed at driving U.S. allies out of the country. Militants on Monday claimed to have killed a Turk and an Iraqi businessman abducted in late August, calling them spies. The family of the businessman, a longtime resident of Italy, said the Italian government had confirmed the man's death.

Other militants freed two Indonesian women whose abduction was reported last week.

In Monday's first blast in Baghdad, a four-wheel-drive vehicle packed with explosives detonated outside the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of the U.S. Embassy and key Iraqi government offices, Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.



Children collect metal from the site of a car bomb in Baghdad on Monday. The bomb was one of two that ripped through central Baghdad streets about an hour apart Monday morning. Two more vehicle bombs went off in the northern city of Mosul, killing three people.

Yarmouk Hospital received 15 bodies and 81 wounded from the explosion, said Sabah Aboud, the facility's chief reconstruction official.

The blast went off at 8:45 a.m. near a checkpoint at the western entrance to the complex, said Maj. Phil Smith, a spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division. No coalition forces were hurt in either of Monday's blasts, Smith said.

The blast was also near a recruitment center for Iraqi security forces. Such centers have frequently been targets for bombings.

"It was thrown 10 yards away and hit the wall," said Wissam Mohammed, 30, who was visiting the center. He lay in a bed at Yarmouk Hospital, his right hand broken, his head wrapped in band-

ages and his clothes stained with blood.

The second car bomb exploded at 9:45 a.m., targeting a convoy of four-wheel drive vehicles leaving a complex of major hotels where foreign contractors and journalists reside.

At least six people were killed and 15 wounded, said Tahnin al-Freji of the U.S.-trained Facility Protection Service, which guards major installations in the city.

A pickup truck loaded with dates exploded as it plowed into the three-vehicle convoy as they emerged from a parking area shared by several major hotels, al-Freji said, speaking at the scene. One of the three vehicles in the convoy was destroyed, and shrapnel hit the nearby Palestine and Baghdad hotels.

Minutes later, gunmen began shooting from the rooftops and police returned fire, said Tahnin al-Kaabi, another FPS member.

The pickup truck carrying the explosives was ripped in half, with one part left dangling from a shop sign on the opposite side of the street.

At least five other cars were charred, including one of the targeted vehicles, which had a burned body left sitting in the front passenger seat. Another man was thrown against a garage wall, his body crumpled in the street. A head and other body parts were strewn in the road amid shards of glass.

The blast ripped through a passing minibus carrying commuters, killing the driver. "I saw his body torn apart," said Razaq Hadi, 36, a passenger in the bus who

was covered in the driver's blood. Hadi said seven seriously wounded passengers were taken out through the bus windows.

Two car bombs also exploded Monday in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. One blast killed two people believed to be transporting the explosives and a civilian bystander, said Capt. Angela Bowman, a military spokeswoman. Hospital officials said they treated 11 wounded in the blast.

The second bomb targeted a U.S. Army convoy, injuring one American soldier, Bowman said.

In Baquba, a police commander was assassinated in an early morning drive-by shooting by unknown gunmen, police said.

Insurgents also fired mortar rounds at Baquba's municipal building, killing one person and wounding seven in the city 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, gunmen killed a senior official of Iraq's Sciences and Technology Ministry and a female employee, Abdul-Rahman said.

In rebel-held Fallujah, American warplanes unleashed strikes on two houses early Monday, killing at least 11 people, hospital officials said.

The military, which regularly accuses hospitals of inflating casualty figures, said the strikes targeted followers of Jordanian terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and their associates.

A strike in the central Jumu'rah area killed nine people, including three women and four children, said Dr. Adil Khamis of Fallujah General Hospital. Twelve were injured, including six women and three children, he said. They include residents of neighboring houses that were damaged in the blast.

A strike in the city's southern Shuhada neighborhood killed two more people, Khamis said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,055 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 801 died as a result of hostile action and 254 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 917 U.S. military members have died — 692 as a result of hostile action and 225 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday. There was no update provided over the weekend.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed by gunfire at a checkpoint in Baghdad on Sunday.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Mike A. Demie, 31, Fayetteville, N.C., died Wednesday in Balad, Iraq, from injuries sustained on Sept. 22 in Baghdad in a vehicle rollover, assigned to the 106th Finance Battalion, Kitzingen, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Rodney A. Jones, 21, Philadelphia, died Thursday in Baghdad, Iraq, when a car bomb exploded near his dismounted patrol, assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Spc. Allen Nolan, 38, Marietta, Ohio, died Thursday at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, of injuries sustained on Sept. 18 in Balad, Iraq, when his convoy vehicle struck an explosive, assigned to the Army Reserve's 68th Transportation Company, Zanesville, Ohio.

Sept. is 2nd-deadliest month for U.S. forces

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — September was the second-deadliest month of the year for U.S. forces in Iraq and brought to nearly 500 the number who have died since the insurgency escalated in late March.

The Pentagon announced Sunday evening that two soldiers died late last week of injuries suffered earlier in the month, and another was killed Sept. 30 by a roadside bomb that brought the month's death toll to 80, up from 65 in August and equal to the 80 who died in May.

The worst month of the year for U.S. troops in Iraq was April when 135 died in a wave of insurgent attacks. Some had hoped the violence would decrease after an

interim Iraqi government was given sovereignty June 28, but the death toll has risen steadily since then.

Forty-two U.S. military deaths were recorded in June and 54 in July.

In remarks Monday to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. military death toll since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, exceeds 1,000. He did not specify the number of deaths in Iraq, but said "it is in freedom's defense" that U.S. troops are fighting there as well as in Afghanistan.

"Amid the losses, the ugliness, the car bombings, the beatings, the task is to remain steadfast," he said in remarks prepared for delivery. "Picture the kind of world we would have if the extremists were to prevail."

4 GIs charged in death

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Four soldiers were charged with murder Monday in the asphyxiation death of an Iraqi general during questioning in Iraq last fall.

Gen. Wafiq al-Hashemi, Jefferson L. Williams and Travis E. Welschhofer Jr., Sgt. 1st Class William J. Sommer and Spc. Jerry L. Loper could get life in prison without parole if convicted in the Nov. 26 death of Maj. Gen. Abed Hamed Mowhoush, 57, in Qaim, Iraq.

The Army has said Welschhofer was part of a two-person interrogation team that questioned Mowhoush. In May, the Army said the Iraqi general was asphyxiated by chest compression and smothering.

Mowhoush, a member of the Republican Guard's air defense branch, was captured in a raid in Qaim.

A U.S. military spokeswoman said at the time that Mowhoush was believed to have been financing attacks on U.S. forces.

From The Associated Press

Boot-camp killer: Adenovirus rates rising

Pentagon's 1996 call to stop immunizations may have spurred once-contained virus' return

BY MICHAEL J. BERENS

The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — More than three decades ago, the Pentagon created two pills to ward off a lethal virus infecting boot-camp recruits. But defense officials abandoned the program in 1996 as too expensive. Now recruits are dying, thousands are falling ill, and the military is desperately racing to bring back a vaccine it once owned.

A top Pentagon official called it "a major screw-up," hobbling U.S. efforts to rapidly deploy troops abroad.

The respiratory virus now infects up to 2,500 servicemembers monthly — a staggering 1 in 10 recruits — in the nation's eight basic-training centers, an analysis of military health-care records shows.

Since the oral vaccinations stopped, the flu-like germ, adenovirus, is associated with the deaths of at least six recruits, four within the past year, according to military records and internal reports obtained by The Seattle Times.

In addition, hundreds of bed-ridden recruits miss critical training and have to be sent through boot camp again, at a cost of millions of dollars each year. Some are dismissed permanently with medical disabilities.

"The virus is expected to kill an additional six to 10 recruits before a vaccine is again available, according to a classified Defense Department briefing this year."

The virus can strike beyond military boundaries as well.

Six children of servicemembers in the Puget Sound area were diagnosed with the virus last winter, according to doctors at Madigan Army Medical Center near Tacoma, Wash.

Most people rebound from the infection within four days, but if untreated, it can quickly turn ferocious, with fever, sore throat and labored breathing leading to severe respiratory problems such as pneumonia and even death.

Adenovirus spreads by cough or touch, thrives in confined places such as overcrowded barracks, and targets those with weakened immune systems. Overstressed recruits, trying to get in shape and adapt to the military, turn out to be ideal incubators for the virus.

Nationally, the virus has killed more than two dozen civilian children and adults in outbreaks in medical facilities in Illinois, Louisiana, Iowa, Tennessee and New York, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports.



SEATTLE TIMES/KRT

Karl Miller examines a culture in a test tube for the presence of adenovirus in a lab at Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash.

Military foot-dragging and high turnover of procurement officers have caused the replacement vaccine to fall behind schedule, making pills unavailable until at least 2007, possibly 2009, military health-care records show.

Dr. Margaret Ryan, a commander at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego and an expert on the virus, calls the vaccine lapse "indefensible."

Original vaccine manufacturer Wyeth Laboratories warned as early as 1984 that it would stop churning out pills costing \$1 each unless defense officials allocated \$5

million to repair a deteriorating production plant.

Wyeth executives shuttered the facility in 1996. A military health budget later gave a reason: "suppression of program to pay higher priority items."

The Pentagon's unwillingness to spend \$5 million on health care is now costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars to remedy.

In September 2001, plagued by boot-camp outbreaks, defense officials finally agreed to spend \$3.4 million to develop a new vaccine through Barr Laboratories of Forest, Va.

Shortly afterward, Assistant Secretary of Defense William Winkenwerder Jr. ordered vaccine efforts accelerated, according to transcripts of a Feb. 19, 2002, meeting at North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego.

"This is one of the most disappointing facts and stories that I've learned upon coming into my position," he said. "I don't want to cast aspersions on anybody who had responsibility in the past, but to be blunt, this is a major screw-up." Some military officials questioned the need to continue the program.

Few vaccinations have proved as easy or free of adverse reactions.

Recruits swallow two off-white pills, which cause a mild intestinal infection that in turn creates protective antibodies against the two most virulent strains, Type 4 and 7.

Although adenovirus thrives best in barracks, the virus can prosper anywhere. Most people experience at least one attack by age 10 and recover in a few days. The germ is fatal in rare cases, particularly to children or those with weak immune systems.

The military began using the vaccine in 1971 after adenovirus blanketed military bases during the 1950s and '60s, killing an undisclosed number of troops. The vaccine essentially vanquished the germ, military studies show.

Later, doctors ruefully noted that a newer, younger cadre of Pentagon leaders failed to understand that the latent virus was controlled — not eliminated — and that it could escape once again if vaccine restraints were loosened.

Pentagon funds "were unavailable" for Wyeth in the mid-1990s so the company "was forced to end vaccine production," said Army epidemiologist Terrence Lee of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at an April 2002 symposium.

Wyeth spokesman Douglas Petkus said the vaccine did not appear to have a "high priority" at the time.

As vaccine production came to a halt in 1996, vaccine stockpiles were rationed to extend partial protection for three more years, with the vaccine being dispensed only between September through March.

After Wyeth's shutdown, defense officials scouted for a new manufacturer. There were no bidders for a \$14 million contract offer.

In the interim, the military pushed for better hygiene, such as hand washing, records show.

U.S. missile defense system may be activated by end of the year

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military is in the final stages of readying its national ballistic missile defense system, with officials predicting it will be activated before the end of the year. But several questions remain unresolved, including how well the experimental missile interceptors work.

The Pentagon maintains that any defense against ICBMs is better than none, but critics challenge that the Bush administration is vastly overselling an expensive, unproven defense system.

There has been an expectation

that the Bush administration will shortly declare to the world that the missile defense system is operational and on alert, but military officials said they know of no specific plans for such an announcement.

Such an announcement, however, would have both political and strategic value for the Bush administration.

To those who believe it will work, activating the system would fulfill a pledge by President Bush to have an operational missile defense system by the end of 2004.

Bush has touted the system while campaigning for re-election.

"We want to continue to perfect this system, so we say to those tyrants who believe they can blackmail America and the free world: you fire, we're going to shoot it down," he said at a stop in Ridley Park, Penn., on Aug. 17.

Military officials are less sanguine, stressing that the initial system will be modest and limited in capability, but will improve over time.

Critics of the system, such as Philip M. Coyle, the Pentagon's former chief of testing, say Bush is flat wrong.

"Of course we don't have any capability right now," he said. "For the president to sort of dare those [to fire missiles] is really misleading and even reckless."

Yokota Baptist Church

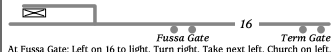
Pastor Warren Webster

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Soul Winning & Visitation	1830	
Wednesday		
Evening Service & Prayer Mig		
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IN THE WORLD

U.S. researchers win Nobel Prize

BY MATT MOORE
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — American researchers Richard Axel and Linda B. Buck were awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday for their efforts to better understand and explain how people can smell a lilac flower on a spring morning and still recall it years later.

In its decision to honor the pair, the Nobel foundation said that the human sense of smell is what "helps us detect the qualities we regard as positive. A good wine or a sun-ripe

wild strawberry activates a whole array of odorant receptors."

The work by Axel, 58, of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Columbia University in New York, and Buck, 57, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, discovered a family of about 1,000 genes that give rise to a huge variety of proteins that sense particular smells. These proteins are found in cells in the nose that communicate with the brain.

"Therefore, we can consciously experience the smell of a lilac flower in the spring and recall this olfactory memory at other times," the foundation said in describing the research.

Axel is professor of biochemistry and molecular biophysics and of pathology at Columbia University and specializes in how sensory information is received, filtered and understood by the brain.

Buck, a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, has specialized in how mammals detect and differentiate odors and pheromones and how the brain translates and perceives them.

The medicine prize includes a check for 10 million kronor (\$1.3 million), and will confer on the pair an aura of prestige for the work they jointly published in 1991.

Khmer Rouge leaders to face tribunals in Cambodia

BY KER MUNTHTH
The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — After seven years of delays, Cambodia's lawmakers on Monday approved a U.N.-backed plan to put surviving Khmer Rouge leaders on trial for atrocities committed during the regime's murderous 1970s rule.

The unanimous vote of the National Assembly backed the establishment of a tribunal of local and foreign judges and prosecutors, clearing a major hurdle toward finally bringing to justice members of the regime blamed in the deaths of nearly 2 million people.

It was not immediately clear when proceedings would start.

Monday's ratification still needs the approval of Cambodia's Senate and head of state.

The deaths of some 1.7 million Cambodians from starvation, overwork and execution are attributed to the radical communist Khmer Rouge which ruled from 1975 to 1979.

None of its top leaders have been brought to justice. Its chief, Pol Pot, died in 1998. Several senior figures, aging and sick, still live freely in Cambodia.

Japanese panel urges flexible defense policy

BY NATALIE OBIKO
PEARSON

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan needs a more flexible defense policy to allow it to better tackle new security threats, including missile and terrorist attacks, a government panel said Monday.

Terrorism, cyber attacks and threats posed by regional nuclear powers are part of the changing security landscape that Japan must adapt to, the Cabinet Office panel said in a report submitted to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

"The Self-Defense Forces, and Japan as a whole, must quickly adjust their way of dealing with security," it said.

Koizumi, responding to the recommendations, said, "This is about what Japan needs to help ensure peace and stability."

Among potential threats identified in the report were China and Russia, which both possess nuclear weapons. North Korea has said it is trying to build nuclear weapons, and is also a possible danger, the report said.

Reviewing how the military is armed is important, but improv-

ing intelligence gathering and security analysis is even more vital, the report said. "It is clear that the approach until now toward basic defense isn't sufficient to deal with the kind of terrorism unfolding in other nations," it said, calling for better integration between police, government and regional authorities.

The report also addressed Japan's efforts to develop missile defense technology with its closest ally, the United States, as well as the possibility of acquiring the capability to strike a missile base in the face of an imminent attack.

The report steered clear of backing pre-emptive strikes. But it recommended a "comprehensive evaluation" that considers the effectiveness of the proposed missile defense system, in addition to its impact on other countries in the region that could be alarmed by such efforts.

The United States and Japan are developing a missile defense shield and have been jointly conducting research since 1999, but the issue has raised concerns.

Many believe it violates the country's pacifist constitution, commonly interpreted as not allowing collective defense.

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Haiti storm toll nears 2,000

Protesters demand return of Aristide, threaten beheadings

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Protesters demanding the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide wielded machetes and threatened to cut off the heads of Haitian police and the U.S.-backed interim prime minister during a demonstration Monday, as the country's official death toll from Tropical Storm Jeanne neared 2,000.

"The protests were part of a new campaign dubbed 'Operation Baghdad.' No violence was reported in Monday's demonstrations in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

About 150 Aristide supporters demonstrated on Monday and some directed their anger at Haitian police who fired in the air to try to disperse a gathering. Using torches and rocks, protesters blocked roads leading into the downtown slum of Bel Air, where residents charged police had been launching nighttime raids to attack Aristide supporters.

"We'll be in the streets until death or Aristide comes back," said Milo Fenelon, a 24-year-old demonstrator. "We won't stop. If they come in here, we're going to cut off their heads. It's going to be just like Baghdad."

Though many demonstrators on Monday were unarmed, some carried machetes and rocks. At least two had guns — a rifle and a homemade shotgun. Some wore masks, others covered their faces with T-shirts.

As rescuers discovered dozens of new bodies in

storm debris, the official count Monday rose to 1,870 bodies recovered from the floods and mudslides unleashed by Tropical Storm Jeanne. Civil defense agency spokesman Dieudonné Desjardins said that number included 233 who died of illness and injuries in the floods.

Officials said at least 884 were reported missing, most in and around the northwestern city of Gonaïves. More than two weeks after the floods, officials say most of the missing are presumed dead.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, who is leading a U.S.-backed transitional government installed after Aristide's ouster in February, said the police killings are part of an offensive by pro-Aristide gangs dubbed "Operation Baghdad."

He told reporters Sunday night that Haiti is seeing "a climate of terror" resembling "the four months preceding Aristide's departure."

Now in exile in South Africa, Aristide has accused U.S. agents of kidnapping him and forcing him out of the Caribbean country on Feb. 29 amid a bloody rebellion — a charge the U.S. government denies.

Aid workers planned to distribute more food Monday to thousands of hungry survivors in Gonaïves, a city of 250,000 where Jeanne left some 200,000 homeless. Many food distributions have been mobbed by desperate crowds, and young men often loot trucks carrying supplies, while U.N. peacekeepers fire into the air to keep order.

Another 100,000 victims were left homeless around Gonaïves, officials said.

Blessing of the animals



Joan Gazdig follows the service with her poodle, Sheba, on Sunday during the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at the Festival Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals in London, Canada. People who attended the ceremony at the church were invited to bring their pets, which were blessed during the service.

Afghan refugee-registration drive draws 650,000

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Within just four days, about 650,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan have registered to vote in landmark presidential elections in their homeland on Oct. 9, organizers said Monday.

The International Organization for Migration said that according to its initial estimate, 25 percent of the registered voters were women. The quick-fire registration campaign ended at 4 p.m. Monday after it was extended for one day to encourage more refugees to sign up for Afghanistan's first direct presidential election after two decades of war. About 100,000 people were estimated to have registered on Monday, in addition to the 550,000 who signed up on the previous three days, said IOM spokesman Darren Boisvert. He said confirmed figures would be available Tuesday.

Despite some threats against election staff and at least one act of arson at a registration center, organizers reported no major attacks.

Inside Afghanistan, pro-Taliban rebels have been trying to sabotage the poll.

From The Associated Press

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On the issues

President Bush

"My first goal is to make sure that every American who wants to work can find a job. I would consider any reasonable proposal that phases in an increase in the federal

What increases, if any, do you favor in the \$5.15 per hour federal minimum wage?

minimum wage over an extended period of time—provided it does not place unreasonable costs on small businesses or other job creators."

Sen. John Kerry

"As president, I will raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7 by 2007, giving a raise to nearly 15 million workers. Doesn't

President Bush see that the minimum wage has fallen further and further behind the cost of living, and the impact of the last increase has been wiped away by inflation?"

W.P. debate pits old versus new

By JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sandwiched between the higher-stakes presidential debates, this week's matchup between Sen. John Edwards and Vice President Dick Cheney pits the Democrats' chief of war against the Republicans' shrewd and serious second-in-command.

The presidential underdogries meet Tuesday at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for their only debate of the campaign. Their style and substance couldn't be more different, giving each plenty of material to try to undermine the other and have an impact, however small, on the national campaign.

At 51, Edwards is a boyish-looking Southerner holding his first elective office who relies on his skills as a former trial lawyer in gauzy campaign speeches and feels a pain encounter with voters. At 63, Cheney is a balding Westerner with a long government resume who has embraced the vice presidential nominee's traditional attack-dog role with relish.

Cheney, with a no-nonsense delivery from the side of his mouth, focuses on the continuing danger from terrorist attacks and vows to keep President Bush at the nation's helm. Edwards, flashing a high-wattage smile, emphasizes his working-class roots in offering a can-do vision of a John Kerry presidency.

While vice presidential debates typically have little influence on the race overall, they could be extra interest in this faceted given the stark contrast between the rivals, Cheney's status as one of the most powerful vice presidents in history and the intense criticism he has drawn from Democrats.

Edwards' challenge is to rattle his opponent and try to feed the Democrats' characterization of the vice president as pulling Bush too far to the right. Edwards, with proven skill at lobbing sharp attacks without turning off the charm, can draw on more than two decades of courtroom practice at cajoling juries to side with personal injury claimants.

But he must avoid coming off as a young upstart who is disrespectful of an elder statesman. If the North Carolina senator goes over that line, he will play into the Republican argument that he lacks the gravitas and foreign policy experience for the job.

Cheney, who served as President Gerald Ford's chief of staff and 24 spent five terms in Congress and served as secretary of defense during the 1991 Gulf War, will be hard to unnerve.

He could walk face questions about allegations of conflict of interest that arose after Halliburton Co., which he once led, won no-bid contracts in Iraq. Other likely topics include his insistence that Saddam Hussein had ties to the al-Qaida terrorist network, and that a Kerry victory would make the nation more vulnerable to a terrorist attack.

Experts say the caricature of Cheney is so extreme that people will be pleasantly surprised if he cracks a few dry witticisms and appears reasonable, as he did in a good-natured debate with Democratic Vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman in 2000.

"People have such a negative view of him, I like to joke that all he has to do is show without horns," said Paul Light, professor of public service at New York University and author of a book on the vice presidency.

Cheney also must gauge how far to take his attacks: He could try to paint Edwards as a money-chasing trial lawyer, or skewer him on his Iraq votes, but he needs to avoid turning off voters by appearing too extreme.

Cheney, who has proved debatable one-on-one, rarely gets defensive. But with a reputation held in the multicandidate primary debates as the nice guy in the race, he could suffer if he doesn't effectively answer when attacked.

The agreed-upon format has the candidates sitting at a table rather than standing. That helps neutralize any physical advantage for Edwards over Cheney, whose history of four heart attacks has provoked occasional questions about whether he should be first in line to occupy the Oval Office.

Bush touts new tax cuts; Kerry touts stem cell plan

By MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

HAMPTON, N.H. — With national polls showing that Democratic presidential challenger Sen. John Kerry has pulled even again in the presidential race with President Bush, both candidates were out campaigning Monday in closely contested states to drum up support.

Kerry, in New Hampshire, accused Bush of ignoring scientific facts and promoted his plan for expanding federal stem cell research with actor Michael J. Fox and a new campaign ad.

Bush headed to Iowa, one of the most contested states, where he signed his fourth tax cut in four years.

Kerry was widely considered to have done better in last week's debate, and two weekend polls showed that the Democratic candidate, who had slipped in opinion polls in September, had bounced back and was about even with Bush.

A Newsweek magazine poll showed Kerry with 47 percent to 45 percent for the president, compared with two polls from last month that showed Bush in the lead by several percentage points.

The latest CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll shows Bush and Kerry even at present. Each group's late September poll had given Bush a lead of 52 percent to 44 percent for Kerry.

Appearing in New Hampshire with Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, a degenerative nerve condition, Kerry said Bush has sacrificed hopes for disease cures of federal stem cell research to "extreme right-wing ideology." Fox has been active in efforts to pass a California proposition on the matter.

Kerry promised to fund more embryonic stem cell research with federal money if elected. A new campaign ad says it's time to



AP photos

Left: Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., promotes his plan to expand federal stem cell research Monday at a town meeting in Portsmouth, N.H. Right: President Bush speaks to supporters Monday in Des Moines, Iowa, one of the most contested states in the neck-and-neck race.

"lift the political barriers" blocking the exploration of stem cell therapies.

Some religious and conservative organizations and individuals oppose the research because days-old embryos are destroyed in the process.

Bush limited federal funding of embryonic stem cell research to the 78 stem cell lines in existence on Aug. 9, 2001. Only a fraction of those initial 78 stem cell lines — 21 at last count — are yet available to researchers.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the White House held the tax cut signing ceremony Monday at a YMCA. An estimated 94 million Americans will be affected by the tax relief, which keeps three middle-class tax breaks from expiring Jan. 1 and revives other tax incentives for businesses.

"The law I sign this morning comes at just the right time for America," Bush said.

Kerry backed the middle-class tax breaks, saying they helped families being squeezed by a

weak economy, falling incomes and rising health costs. But he has proposed rolling back the tax cuts for families making more than \$200,000 savings to make health care and education more affordable.

The October Newsweek poll of 1,013 registered voters has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points and was taken from late Thursday through early Saturday.

CNN-USA Today-Gallup polled 772 likely voters between Oct. 1 and 3. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1,265
British pound	\$1.83
Japanese yen (Oct. 5)	\$0.08
South Korean won (Oct. 5)	1,120.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.789
Denmark (Krone)	6.56
Egypt (Pound)	6.25
Euro	\$1.2467
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.799
Hungary (Forint)	200.58
Israel (Shekel)	1.84
Japan (Yen)	108.40
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29461
Norway (Krone)	4.75
Philippines (Peso)	56.28
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.67
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6997
South Korea (Won)	1,147.50
Switzerland (Franc)	1.19
Thailand (Baht)	55.0600

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies provided for reference when the British pound, which is represented in dollars to the euro, and the euro, which is dollars to the euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$412.35
Silver	\$6.72

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.95
3-month bill	1.69
30-year mortgage	4.95

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day Overspending on homes

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — More Americans are becoming house poor.

It's an ugly downside of the soaring real estate market: Many of those who put a toe in the housing water are finding themselves unable to afford more than the basic necessities, unless they try to survive with a credit-card lifestyle.

A brief layoff or other job interruption can be enough to push many young homebuyers over the financial edge to insolvency.

Huge house payments are a dire reason for sky-high levels of bankruptcy and foreclosures.

For some people, the problem may not be housing prices, but spending habits. The availability of credit often exceeds their ability to use it wisely.

But the odds are against even some financially responsible homebuyers affording their dream home. Real estate costs are outstripping what families are earning, making homes increasingly less affordable.

Yet the boom in prices is unrelenting.

U.S. home prices increased an average 9.36 percent from the second quarter of 2003 to the second quarter of 2004, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight said.

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- Selected participants will be notified of exact times, dates and locations.
- Chances of winning a free digital camera are about 1-in-12. Only one digital camera will be awarded for each Focus Group.
- Snacks and drinks will be provided to all participants.

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Armstrong cycles for a good cause

Six-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong is taking part in a cross-country cycling relay to raise awareness about cancer and the importance of cancer research.

Armstrong left Duarte, Calif., on the first segment of the eight-day trip that ends Oct. 9 in Washington.



Armstrong

Twenty cyclists, each touched in some way by cancer, are taking part in the event sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb, which developed three drugs that helped Armstrong beat testicular cancer eight years ago.

The bikers will ride in continuous 4- to 5-hour segments, and Armstrong will ride in selected segments along the way.

During a speech before the ride began, Armstrong credited cancer researchers who created the drugs with saving his life.

"I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be on a bike, I wouldn't have won the race, I wouldn't have won a stage in the Tour (de France) ... and I sure as hell wouldn't have won six" without the drugs, he said.

Actor appears in ads for alma mater

Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is hoping to help out students at the University of Virginia, his alma mater, by appearing in advertisements for a new financial aid program.

Thomas, 33, graduated from the university in 1992 and benefited from need-based financial aid. Now he is appearing with current financial aid recipients in a series of television and radio announcements about the "Access UVA" program.

Thomas portrayed Jimmy James in "Barbershop" and its sequel, "Barbershop 2: Back in Business," and received critical acclaim for his role in "Save the Last Dance."

The ads feature the theme: "If you've got the brains, but not the bucks, the door's open. Access UVA makes it happen."



Thomas

Can't handle the American way of life

Chow Yun-Fat says he can't stand the American way of life and has no plans to pursue U.S. permanent resident status.



Yun-Fat

"I can't stand talking English every day or the lifestyle there ... not to mention the food," the Hong Kong-born film star was quoted as saying in the Chinese-language newspaper The Sun. "I only go to America for work. When I finish work, I leave immediately. I won't stay one day longer."

Chow rose to fame in Hong Kong with gangster movies including "A Better Tomorrow" before moving to Hollywood, where he has starred in films such as "The Replacement Killers" and "Anna and the King."

Mayor knows his snow shovels

When the author of a new how-to book needed to find an expert snow shoveler, he turned to Buffalo Mayor Tony Masiello to write a chapter about his shoveling secrets.

Masiello shares the literary stage with celebrities such as Donald Trump and Jennifer Capriati in Samantha Ertus' new book, "The Experts' Guide to 100 Things Everyone Should Know How to Do."

The book offers tips from experts on how to accomplish tasks ranging from setting a formal table to changing a diaper. Masiello is the only elected official included in the book.

But some Buffalo residents who serve on a task force that is trying to make the city more walkable in the winter questioned how much shoveling the mayor actually does.

In his entry, Masiello pointed out that not all snow is created equal and when there is at least 7 feet of snow, his advice is to call the governor to send in the National Guard and call Congress for federal aid.

Masiello also wrote about the different types of shovels and when to use rock salt and what type of clothing shovelers should wear.

Stories and photos from wire services.

Blazing battles



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOS/Stars and Stripes/AP

From left, Jacinda Barrett, John Travolta and Joaquin Phoenix star in the new movie "Ladder 49." Realism is what sets this film apart from the 1994 hit "Backdraft." The director Jay Russell that "Ladder 49" is "... a character movie that has action as opposed to an action movie that has characters."

Travolta, Phoenix try to keep real in 'Ladder 49'

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

John Travolta can't see the hand before his face, but he can feel the heat.

He thinks he hears someone to his right, though it could just be a voice bouncing off a wall. He gropes in front of him on hands and knees and feels the floor fall away in front of him. Is it a 3- or 30-foot drop? He only knows he has to act before the room gets any hotter.

What sounds like a scene from the new firefighter drama "Ladder 49" is not. It is part of the training Travolta and costar Joaquin Phoenix undertook for their roles. And while neither is claiming these sessions made them bona fide firefighters, they hope that their respect for the profession shines through in every frame.

"The movie was bigger than all of us," says Travolta. "Only a couple of times in a career do you get to do movies for a bigger reason than yourself."

"We wanted to be truthful and authentic," says Phoenix. "We didn't want to pull punches. It seems so often in film you have to create these scenarios in which your protagonist has to do something heroic, and it always feels very contrived. Here we don't have to create these fake scenarios. These are real heroes saving people every day."

In "Ladder 49," Phoenix plays Jack Morrison, a Baltimore fireman who gets trapped deep in a blazing warehouse. As fellow firefighters try to dig through the rubble to get him out, the story flashes back to his days as a rookie, learning the ropes from fire chief Mike Kennedy (Travolta) and starting a family with wife Linda (Jacinda Barrett).

The 29-year-old Phoenix, so soft-spoken he barely seems able to blow out a candle let alone a five-alarm fire, says the three months spent with Baltimore firefighters provided invaluable background for his role. Once inside a burning building, he says, "You can't see, you can't hear, you can't really touch anything. All these senses are muted and it's really scary."

Realism is what sets the movie apart from Ron Howard's 1991 hit "Backdraft." The Internet site www.nitpickers.com is filled with accounts of firefighters literally yelling at the screen when rescue units in Howard's film

stormed burning buildings without the proper equipment, especially masks.

"Ladder 49" presents the more routine and sometimes mundane aspects of life in a firehouse — just guys battling blazes and trying to hold their families together.

While critics may still pick at the melodramatic elements, firefighters who have seen it at preview screenings give it high marks.

For Travolta, the key question in the film was the chief's choice to put more and more men at risk in attempting to rescue Morrison, who had become like a younger brother to him. "I asked some firefighters what they thought they would do," Travolta remembers. "At first they said 'No,' they wouldn't have done it, and then their wives said, 'Oh, yeah, right,' and they had to cop to it. Almost all would have done the same thing."

Aside from the chance to work with Phoenix, Travolta says he was attracted to the physicality of his role. "Every scene involving fire was bordering on danger," says Travolta, who wasn't wearing gloves in one scene and burned himself on the red-hot metal gates of Phoenix's car. "We were risking more than we should have. It was always, 'Is anybody looking? OK, let's do it.'"

Helming a big-budget movie about firefighters seems an odd fit for Jay Russell, but the director says it's not that different from his work on movies like "Tuck Everlasting" and "My Dog Skip."

"I like to call this a character movie that has action as opposed to an action movie that has characters," he says.

Russell receives nitpickers will invariably take swipes at the film's accuracy, but he thinks it comes closer than any film so far.

To truly portray a firefighting situation, he says, you would have to place the audience literally in the dark. "Once you hit a burning fire with water, a blackout happens," he says. "Smoke comes at you and, even on the brightest day, everything goes pitch black."

Russell insists that the movie was already in the works before Sept. 11, 2001, but admits that the tragedy has made the sacrifices of firefighters a hot topic. Yes, he says, the movie is dedicated to those who died during the terrorist attacks, but it's also a tribute to the firefighters who died on 9/10, 9/12 and 9/13, he says.

"On 9/11 the world saw, in a glimpse, what happens every day."

Private spaceship wins \$10 million prize

BY JOHN ANTCAK
The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — A stubby private rocket plane blasted through the Earth's atmosphere for a second time in a week on Monday, capturing a \$10 million prize meant to encourage space tourism.

A crowd of thousands of enthusiasts on the ground began celebrating as soon as unofficial reports said SpaceShipOne had climbed over 62 miles — generally considered to be the point where the Earth's atmosphere ends and space begins.

"This is the true frontier of transportation," said Marion C. Blakey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, who stood near the runway.

The rocket plane, funded by Microsoft co-founder Paul G. Allen, took off from a desert runway slung to the belly of a carrier plane. It was released at about 46,000 feet, and test pilot Brian Binnie fired its rockets to continue to the edge of space at three times the speed of sound.

The mother craft and chase planes led flyovers for spectators before landing. SpaceShipOne re-

turned about 90 minutes after transportation," said Marion C. Blakey, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, who stood near the runway.

"Let me say I thank God that I live in a country where this is possible," Binnie said after landing and receiving a hug of congratulations from his wife. "And I really mean that. There's no place on Earth that you can take this flag and take it up to space."

About an hour after it landed, X Prize founder Peter Diamandis announced that SpaceShipOne's team had claimed the prize, awarded for the first privately built, manned rocket ship to fly in space twice in a span of two weeks.



Astronaut Brian Binnie opens a bottle of champagne Monday with Bert Rutan, left, and Richard Branson as they celebrate Binnie's suborbital flight to win the Ansari X Prize in Mojave, Calif.

'Psycho' star Janet Leigh dead at the age of 77

BY JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Janet Leigh, the wholesome beauty whose shocking murder in the classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller "Psycho" was credited with making generations of film fans think twice about stepping into a motel room shower, has died. She was 77.

The actress' husband, Robert Brandt, and her daughters (with actor Tony Curtis), actresses Kelly Curtis and Jamie Lee Curtis, as well as their mother's side when she died Sunday at her Beverly Hills home, said Heidi Schaeffer, a spokeswoman for Jamie Lee Curtis.

"She died peacefully at home," Schaeffer said Monday.

Leigh had suffered from vasculitis, an inflammation of the blood vessels, for the past year.

She enjoyed a long and distinguished career, appearing in such films as the 1962 political thriller "The Manchurian Candidate" and in Orson Welles' 1958 film noir classic "Touch of Evil."

But she gained her most lasting fame in "Psycho" as the enigmatic office worker who is stabbed to death in the shower by cross-dressing madman Anthony Perkins. The role earned her an Oscar nomination as best supporting actress. Hitchcock compiled the shower scene in 70-odd takes of two and three seconds each, for which Leigh spent seven days in the shower. Rumors circulated that she was

nude, but she wore a flesh-colored molestin.

Although tame by today's standards, the scene was shocking for the time for its brutality.

Leigh wrote in her 1995 book "Psycho Behind the Scenes in the Classic Thriller" that the filming was easy until the last 20 seconds when she had to express total horror as her character was being slashed to death.

She often said she hadn't been able to take a shower since the movie. "It's not a hype, not something I thought would be good for publicity," she insisted. "Honest to god, it's true."

Leigh's entry into films occurred in cliché fashion. Born Jeannette Helen Morrison in Merced, Calif., on July 6, 1927, she was a college student when

retired star Norma Shearer saw her photograph at a ski resort. Shearer recommended the teenager to talent agent Lew Wasserman, who negotiated a contract at MGM for \$50 a week.

Dubbed Janet Leigh, she starred in 1947 in her first movie, "The Romance of Rosy Ridge" opposite Van Johnson. Her salary rose to \$150 a week. She became one of the busiest stars at MGM, appearing in six movies in 1949.

Among her many films: "Act of Violence" (with Van Heflin), "Little Women," "Holiday Affair" (Robert Mitchum), "Strictly Dishonorable" (Ezio Pinza), "The Naked Sp" (James Stewart), "Living It Up" (Martin and Lewis), "Jet Pilot" (John Wayne), "Bye Bye Birdie" (Dick

Van Dyke), "Safari" (Victor Mature).

Leigh had been married twice before coming to Hollywood: to John K. Carlyle, 1942, annulled; and Stanley Reames, 1946-1948, divorced. In 1951 she married Tony Curtis when their stardoms were at a peak. Both their studios, MGM and Universal, expressed concerns that their immense popularity with teenagers would be hindered if they were married.

Aided by a spurge of fan magazine publicity, their appeal rose. They appeared in four films together, including "Houdini" and "The Vikings." The "ideal couple" divorced in 1963.

In her 1984 autobiography, "There Really Was a Hollywood," she refrained from criticizing Curtis.

Supreme Court rejects appeal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court rejected an appeal Monday from an ousted Alabama judge who lost his job after defying a federal order to dismantle a Ten Commandments monument.

Roy Moore has become a high-profile crusader for Ten Commandment monuments as a result of the dispute over his own 2½-ton granite display in the state courthouse.

A federal judge ruled that Moore violated the Constitution's ban on government promotion of religion when he placed the monument in the rotunda of the judicial building in the middle of the night in 2001.

The display was moved last year over Moore's objections, and a state court removed him from office.

Moore's lawyers had called on the Supreme Court to "remedy this travesty of justice" and give him his job back. The high court declined, without comment.

The Alabama Court of the Judiciary found that Moore violated canons of judicial ethics when he refused the federal court's order to move the monument. Moore could try to win back a seat on the court in 2006 elections.



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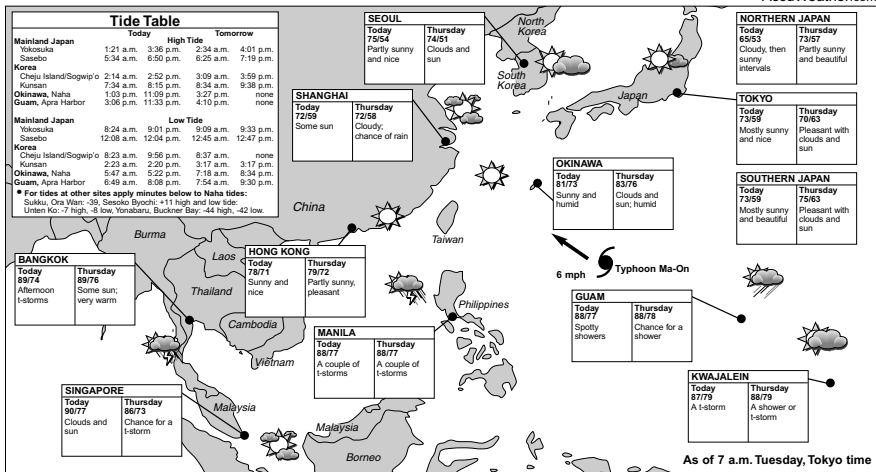
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The Pacific Forecast

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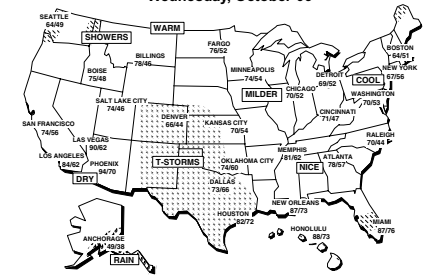
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Friday: Partly sunny, high 73, low 63. Saturday: Rain, high 70, low 65.	KADENA Friday: Thundershowers, high 85, low 76. Saturday: Thundershowers, high 85, low 76.	SEUL Friday: Mostly cloudy, high 73, low 55. Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 74, low 54.	MANILA Friday: Thundershowers, high 88, low 77. Saturday: Thundershowers, high 90, low 77.	HAGATNA Friday: Showers, high 88, low 79. Saturday: Showers, high 87, low 75.
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Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	76/52	Los Angeles	78/59
Amarillo	71/51	Little Rock	82/55
Anchorage	51/39	Louisville	79/44
Ashville	78/46	Miami	89/77
Baltimore	74/48	Milwaukee	54/35
Birmingham	88/59	Nashville	82/47
Bismarck	63/36	New York	74/53
Boise	78/50	Omaha	63/35
Boston	67/49	Orlando	91/71
Brownsville	90/72	Philadelphia	75/50
Buffalo	63/40	Phoenix	98/70
Burlington	67/38	Pittsburgh	87/40
Charleston, SC	83/61	Portland, OR	76/51
Charlotte	80/54	Portland, ME	55/43
Chicago	62/42	Salt Lake City	73/50
Columbus, OH	69/39	St. Louis	72/41
Duluth	50/30	San Antonio	87/67
El Paso	84/60	San Diego	72/63
Hartford	71/41	San Juan	91/76
Helena	71/36	Tampa	89/73
Indianapolis	68/40	Tulsa	81/49
Jacksonville	87/65	Washington	76/52
Kansas City	67/37	Wichita	77/46

Wednesday, October 06



U.S. Extended Forecast

Showers and thundershowers are expected in the central and southern Great Plains on Wednesday. Some storms will also occur in the central and southern Rocky Mountains during the afternoon. The mid-Atlantic and the Midwest will remain sunny due to an area of high pressure. Showers and thundershowers will continue in the southern Great Plains, while high pressure will bring a partly to mostly sunny sky to both the West Coast and the East Coast on Thursday. Interior sections of New England could have a shower or thundershowers in the afternoon on Friday. Rain is expected on Friday afternoon in the Pacific Northwest as a front moves ashore. High pressure will bring a partly sunny sky to the northern Great Plains.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	89/74	Iwakuni	73/60
Beijing	78/57	Kadena AB	81/73
Camp Casey	76/54	Kunsan AB	73/57
Christchurch	53/36	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	82/76	Manila	89/77
Hagatna	88/77	Masawa AB	62/48
Hanoi	82/70	Osan	74/54
Hong Kong	78/71	Perth	65/44
Honolulu	88/73	Pusan	72/60

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Sasebo NB	72/61	Sapporo	65/53
Seoul	75/54	Shanghai	72/59
Singapore	90/77	Singapore	90/77
Sydney	73/50	Taegu	75/57
Taipei	81/66	Tokyo	73/59

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/74	Budapest	72/52
Athens	69/53	Buenos Aires	81/64
Auckland	58/49	Cairo	86/60
Baghdad	104/74	Cancun	85/72
Barbados	91/73	Cape Town	60/39
Barcelona	72/61	Geneva	67/48
Berlin	60/42	Guadalajara	64/50
Bermuda	79/68	Honolulu	81/61
Brussels	60/42	Johannesburg	88/64

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Kabul	81/53	Nairobi	81/53
Kiev	59/46	New Delhi	91/67
Kuwait	107/76	Oslo	51/39
London	55/40	Paris	55/41
Madrid	80/59	Rio de Janeiro	68/57
Mexico City	68/54	Rome	75/58
Montreal	57/44	St. Petersburg	57/45
Moscow	89/74	Stockholm	54/41
Qadshu	54/45	Warsaw	72/53



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Send reservists home first

I am a reservist serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and want to comment on the letter "Make deployments equal" and the article "Report: Army could shorten combat tours," (both Sept. 29).

The soldier's letter is correct. I have seen active-duty units leave after six to seven months, while the reservists stay in excess of 12 months. We are all soldiers, and this really does not affect me (as I will be returning to full-time duty when my deployment ends), but it is unfair to the reservists who are losing out on promotions and pay raises with their career jobs back home.

The government needs to think of some better incentives to protect the soldiers, or attempt to reimburse them in some better way. But also the Army should make sure that, in fairness, that if there are all these extra reservists going back to their careers and the soldiers, whose careers are being soldiers. This might also help to retain Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

Which brings me to the article. It said that the generals say it is a bad idea to maintain numbers in country for long rotations. But per above, the military is sending soldiers home early, so what numbers are they referring to? Also as stated above, creating better incentives may help retention. With this, they will have a much easier time maintaining the numbers they say they need.

St. James Yelzer
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

All serve long deployments

The writer of the Sept. 29 letter "Make deployments equal," a National Guardsman, needs to check his facts. He stated that he was going to do a 13-month tour in Iraq while active-duty troops were doing tours half of that. I do not know of any active-duty units that have not done the full year. I have recently returned from a tour in Iraq with the 1st Armored Division. Our tour was 15-16 months. Last time I checked, 15 was not half of 13.

Next the writer said that he and others like him had left civilian jobs and people like you put their education on hold. Who is paying for that education? It's not like active-duty soldiers don't leave wives and children behind. Contrary to the belief of some Guardsmen, we too have lives and responsibilities at home.

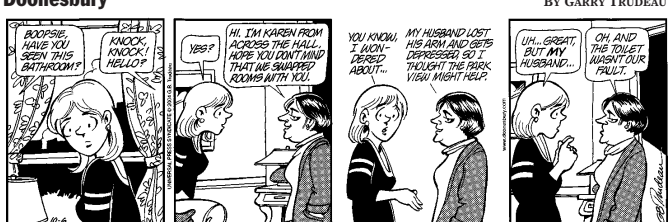
In closing I would like to reiterate that the National Guard signed a contract just as we did. It is not just free college money. There are times that you have to suck it up and do your duty.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Dolbow
Baumholder, Germany

1st AD gone 15 months

This is in response to the Sept. 29 letter "Make deployments equal," in which the writer asks "Why do the part-time soldiers have to fulfill the entire tour while the active-duty components serve half that."

Doonesbury



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time?" The writer should know that this is not true. Maybe some active-duty components are only serving half the time or less but is but, if he recalls correctly, the 1st Armored Division got extended in Iraq for 15 months, and he is active-duty.

I agree that all deployments should be the same regardless of branch or component, especially since the Army is the one with the longest deployments. But next time, the letter writer should please be more specific about his facts, instead of making it sound like none of the active-duty components are "fulfilling their entire tour."

Jaime Folmar
Hanau, Germany

Reservists can get credit

The writer of the Sept. 26 letter "Army's 'redheaded stepchild,'" is misinformed when he says Army Reserve soldiers are not eligible to receive promotion points for Army e-learning courses.

According to IAW 140-158, Table 3-3 paragraph 4 (1): Promotion points for completion of military correspondence (extension). My concerns are as follows:

(1) Determine the number of credit hours completed for subcourse, divide that number by 5 (1 point each for 5 credit hours). The result is the number of promotion points.

This soldier needs to check with his company clerk to make sure that the courses he has taken are put on his DA Form 3555-1 for the next promotion board — and dyes his hair.

Sgt. 1st Class Rose Goldsmith
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

The 'right' to vote

My letter concerns a recent public service announcement on American Forces Network television encouraging soldiers to vote. The woman in the well-meaning an-

nouncement says, "the right to vote is one of the most important gifts our country gives its citizens." I have read and heard many such sentiments from various sources in recent days.

As a soldier sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, I must point out that a critical distinction: The rights of the people are given by God or nature, not by any government forbearance. James Madison, often called the father of the Constitution, wrote, "In Europe, charters of liberty have been granted by power. America has set the example... on charters of power granted by liberty." Thomas Jefferson, in the Declaration of Independence wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights." And in later years he wrote, "Man [is] a rational animal, endowed by nature with rights."

Whether you believe liberty is a gift from God or a natural condition of mankind, it must be clear that our country was founded on the principle of inherent individual liberty. No government can give or deny the rights of any person. Only people can surrender their rights through laziness, helplessness, cowardice or ignorance. Jefferson is consistently correct with saying, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." For this reason, we must be very careful about the attitudes conveyed by government officials and spokespersons. I commend AFN for encouraging soldiers and their families to vote. We owe it to future generations to exercise our rights and never permit our government to forget who it boss.

Sp. Christopher Abbey
Wiesbaden, Germany

NFL airs at odd hours

I just finished reading the Oct. 1 letter "We want our NFL," in which the writer asks for American Forces Network to broadcast more professional football. As the one who is in charge of Morale, Welfare and Recreation here at Forward Operating Base Normandy, I am confused as to what AFN he was watching.

I watched many professional and regular-season games on AFN. It has to be understood by those who may not normally be stationed where they must rely on AFN for their sports that the games don't come at the convenient times that we are used to in the States.

If you want your football, you need to check the AFN schedule online and watch at sometimes-inconvenient times, but get your football. I watched the Cowboys and the Redskins on the Monday night game played Sept. 27 and enjoyed the game — though I had to get up before 5 a.m. on Tuesday (Sept. 28) to watch the game live.

There were more than just 25 games shown during the first two weeks of the season. I know I posted the schedules after getting the game schedule from AFN online.

Chaplain (Capt.) Ric Normandy
Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Nuclear threat to his list. Now what do we do?

The presidential debate on foreign policy was dominated by one issue — the war in Iraq. Yet when the candidates were asked to name the single most serious threat to the national security of the United States, neither mentioned Iraq.

Daniel Snieder



John Kerry responded without a moment's hesitation — nuclear proliferation. The president agreed, broadening the threat to weapons of mass destruction in the hands of a terrorist network.

That was the correct answer from both men. Nobody pointed out the obvious — that the administration went to war in Iraq allegedly because of this threat and was completely wrong.

So where does this threat really exist? John Kerry pointed in the right direction — to North Korea and Iran, which are pursuing nuclear weapons, and to Russia's unsecured stockpiles of nuclear materials and weapons.

That much was clear. But when the debate moved deeper into discussing what to do about North Korea and Iran, it was so full of mistakes and obscure references that only a handful of experts could follow it. Let me do some translation.

Bush and Kerry seemed to agree that diplomacy can resolve the nuclear problems with North Korea and Iran. But that was as far as it went.

Kerry argued that the administration delayed any talks with the North Koreans for two years, during which time they built be-

tween four and seven nuclear weapons. He called for direct negotiations with North Korea, talks that could cover everything from a formal treaty to end the Korean War to troop deployments along the zone separating North and South Korea. Kerry talked vaguely about a nuclear deal with Iran, faulting the administration for doing "nothing."

The president argued that direct talks do the bidding of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. They would collapse the ongoing six-party negotiations organized by China that include Japan, South Korea and Russia. On Iran, Bush backed European-led talks with Iran and the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to curb Iran's nuclear program.

The debate over direct vs. multilateral talks is misleading. The Chinese and the other participants have pushed the United States to talk directly with North Korea. And American negotiators have met with their North Korean counterparts, though under very severe restrictions from the White House. Unfortunately Kerry failed to point this out.

Similarly, our European allies, led by the British, have also urged dialogue between Washington and Tehran. Preliminary steps in this direction by Secretary of State Colin Powell were beaten back by more conservative voices inside the administration.

The president's logic is flawed. The current talks with North Korea have reached a stalemate, allowing it to possibly build bombs and drive wedges between the United States and its allies. The Iran negotiations are also rapidly reaching a crisis point as



Iran threatens to move ahead with uranium enrichment.

Direct talks may not necessarily yield success, but they are not an act of surrender. Were John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan giving in when they met Nikita Khrushchev and Mikhail Gorbachev, respectively? Bush touted the example of Libya's decision to renounce its weapons program, but that, too, came out of years of direct talks by Britain and the United States.

Kerry's advocacy of a "grand bargain" type deal to get North Korea and Iran to renounce their nuclear ambitions is less convincing.

Such talks could end up "overloading the

agenda," worries Jonathan Pollack, Asia Pacific director at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Nor did Kerry give any sense of what would happen should talks fail. The best argument for full diplomatic engagement is that without that effort, the United States lacks the credibility to bring our allies along with us if we have to escalate pressure, such as imposing economic sanctions.

Let's hope that in the remaining weeks, the campaign clarifies — even sharpens — the real differences between these two men on national security.

Daniel Snieder is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Kerry's view of economy under Bush not on money

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripts Howard

Iraq won't win the election for John Kerry. He has to convince voters that George W. Bush has botched the economy. That's a tall order right now, with the unemployment rate down from 6.3 percent to 5.4 percent in a year. It's back where it was when Bill Clinton was re-elected in 1996.

Kerry has another problem. His debate with Bush on Friday comes the same day as a report that will almost certainly show powerful employment gains, including upward revisions from earlier this year. Still, Kerry is trying hard, and two main themes will be on display during the debating to come.

Kerry says Bush is "the first president to lose jobs in our country in 72 years." This statement is both false and disingenuous. Franklin Roosevelt lost lots of jobs, so did Ronald Reagan. Both inherited bad economies from their predecessors — as did Bush. The president was faced in his first year with a tech bubble that had burst, a terrorist attack that had killed 3,000 Americans and the worst corporate accounting scandals in history. None was Bush's fault; Clinton deserves at least some blame for all three.

The real question is how Bush handled the cards he was dealt. He did what any economist (Keynesian or supply-side) would prescribe: cut taxes, increase spending and loosen monetary policy (really, the job of the Fed). All steps were taken quickly, and the economy has turned around.

The big job losses occurred at the start of the administration. The big gains have occurred in the past year.

The second theme that Kerry will push is the hiring of foreigners by American companies. This accusation makes Kerry the first

major-party presidential candidate in decades to spout a protectionist line on trade.

Outsourcing is a nonproblem. The latest statistics show that of the 1.5 million jobs lost last year in mass layoffs, less than 1 percent were sent abroad. Daniel Drezner of the University of Chicago also points out that while 4,633 workers were laid off from offshoring in the first quarter, Kodak laid off 15,000 because of the growth of digital photography.

It is technology and competition that are costing — and gaining — jobs for Americans. When we have an edge over the rest of the world — as we do in many sectors, from entertainment to financial services — we gain from trade. When other countries have an edge over us — as they do in textiles, for instance — then we gain as well, as nearly 300 million Americans pay lower prices.

That's the way trade works. It benefits both parties. Obstructing it would be a disaster.

My guess is that the emotional and cynical appeals that Kerry is making won't work — for the simple reason that the real economy is alive and well and getting better. "The U.S. will probably grow more in the second half than in the first," says David Malpass, chief economist for Bear Stearns. I agree. The unemployment rate today is lower than the average of the past three decades. Household wealth has soared to a new record, and 69 percent of Americans own a home, the highest proportion ever.

Last week, final figures for Gross Domestic Product in the second quarter were announced. GDP grew nearly 5 percent for the year. That's greater than in any 12-month period during the Clinton administration. Personal income is up 5 percent in the past year, and business spending is strong.

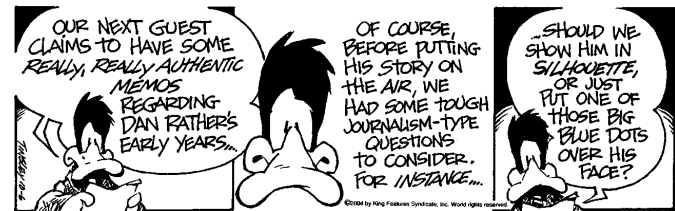
Inflation is tame, and interest rates are low. Compare the United States with Kerry paragon abroad: France's unemployment is 9.9 percent; Germany's, 10.6 percent.

On Friday, statistics on employment will be released. August showed a gain of 144,000 jobs but, because of the hurricanes, the increase could be smaller for September. But there should be a dramatic upward revision for past months as the Bureau of Labor Statistics reconciles the payroll survey, which shows a net loss of about 800,000 jobs during Bush's term, with the household survey, which shows a gain of 2 million jobs. Kerry, through distortions and obfuscations, will try mightily to convince Americans that Bush has messed up the economy. If reality counts, he won't get away with it.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of the Web site TechCentralStation.com.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Goat meat in demand

NY ALBANY — A rising, immigrant-fueled demand for goat meat and dairy products has led to a mini-boom in the number of farmers nationwide who are capitalizing on the cheaper and easier-to-raise livestock.

The growth trend is especially true in New York and other Eastern seaboard states where immigrant groups from the Middle East, Africa, eastern Europe and southern Asia are settling, said Duncom Hilecy, an agricultural development specialist at Cornell University.

"Of the top 20 immigrant groups into New York City, 18 or 19 come from goat meat-eating countries," Hilecy said. "Immigrants are bringing their food traditions to the Northeast and that's creating opportunity."

Disabled woman killed

CA SACRAMENTO — An elderly man who spent years caring for his mentally and physically disabled daughter apparently bludgeoned her to death with a hammer in their home, authorities said.

Joseph Brosz, 84, was jailed on suspicion of murder in the slaying of 56-year-old Sylvia Brosz, whose body was found.

"The suspect indicated that he was unable to provide care for his daughter," sheriff's spokesman R.L. Davis said. "That appears to be the motive."

Davis said that he did not know the specifics of the woman's disability but that her father had been taking care of her full time. Davis said it was unclear when the woman was killed.

Whale of a comeback

AK ANCHORAGE — North Pacific right whales may not be going extinct after all.

Scientists have found twice as many right whales in the Bering Sea as previously spotted, giving them hope the rare whales are making a comeback.

"We saw more right whales in the Bering Sea than have been documented in the last five years combined," said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist Robert Pitman, who was aboard a research vessel that spotted 25 whales, including three cows with calves.

Right whales in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans were hunted nearly to extinction before coming under international protection in 1949. The number in Alaska waters probably is in the dozens.

More than 100 are in waters off Russia and Japan.

Border deaths drop

AZ TUCSON — The number of illegal immigrants who died while trying to cross the border from Mexico declined over the past year, according to preliminary Border Patrol figures released Friday.

The total number of migrant deaths along the entire U.S.-Mexico border dropped to 325 for the fiscal year that ended Thursday, from 340 in the previous fiscal year.

Mario Villarreal, a Washington-based spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, which in-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

cludes the Border Patrol, attributed the decline to cooler, wetter weather in Texas and a repatriation program in Arizona.

Under the repatriation program, immigration officials put 14,000 captured migrants on planes headed to Mexico's interior rather than just returning them to the border, making repeat crossing attempts more difficult.

Doc loses job over gun

MA BOSTON — A doctor who left a loaded handgun in an employee's bathroom at Salem Hospital's emergency room was fired after an in-house investigation, while the state Board of Registration in Medicine continues its probe of the incident, his attorney said.

Dr. Richard L. Pinegar was suspended immediately after the gun was found, but he was not disciplined in any other way by the hospital and faces no criminal charges, said his lawyer Paul Ciral.

Pinegar, working an overnight shift at the hospital, left the gun inside the bathroom early in the morning of Aug. 30 when he stepped out to answer a page, Ciral said. Another staffer found the gun and alerted hospital security.

Pinegar, 52, who has a valid license to carry a firearm, immediately acknowledged the .38-caliber Smith and Wesson revolver was

his and took possession of it, Ciral said. When the police arrived, Pinegar showed the officers the gun and was allowed to keep it.

"He grew up in Iowa around guns. He's a member of a sportsman's club, and he keeps his gun locked in a gun safe," Ciral said. "He also works crazy hours in a hospital ER and has to find his car in the parking lot at night. It's his decision, and he's done it by following the law."

Snake clears theater

TX HOUSTON — In a case of life imitating art, a Houston movie theater has shut down while workers hunt for an 8-foot snake spotted by a maintenance worker.

Among the movies playing at the 16-screen Tinseltown theater is the horror-thriller "Anacondas." Terrell Paik, a spokeswoman for Cinemark USA Inc., said the worker saw a snake about a week ago that he described as thick as a man's arm slithering along a wall.

When theater owners heard of it, they closed the place and brought in snake experts.

"We have looked throughout the theater and we haven't found a snake yet," Ramon Cardenas, owner of Critter Control of Houston, a company that specializes in wildlife control, told the Houston Chronicle.

It's unclear if the animal escaped or remains inside. Based on the description provided by the janitor, the snake people believe it could be a Burmese python.

1812 grave uncovered

VT BURLINGTON — Another skeleton in a grave from the War of 1812 has been uncovered at a construction site on North Street. The latest skeleton brings to eight the number of skeletons uncovered during the current construction project.

The latest skeleton includes pewter buttons that could help researchers determine which regiment the soldier belonged to, said Kristen Merman Shaper, the North Street revitalization coordinator.

Nearly 5,000 soldiers were stationed at or near what is now Battery Park during the War of 1812. Roughly 500 soldiers died around Burlington as the Americans and British fought for control of Lake Champlain. Another 200 or so died in epidemics during the winter of 1812-13.

The soldiers were buried north and east of Battery Park. The burial ground was forgotten as development spread across the Old North End in the 1850s and 1860s.

Man admits slayings

CO DENVER — A man charged with killing four people after binding them with duct tape and shooting them in the head as the 3-year-old daughter of one victim watched has pleaded guilty to the slayings.

Edward Herrera, 51, will be sentenced to four consecutive life sentences on Oct. 29, said Lynn Kimbrough, spokeswoman for the Denver district attorney's office.

Herrera pleaded guilty Friday to four counts of felony murder and two counts of attempted first-degree murder for the August 2003 slayings and the shootings of two people who survived.



On a wild ride

Jordan Price, 13, and Lauren Williams, 13, ride Pharaoh's Fury at the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, N.C.



Fiesta takes off

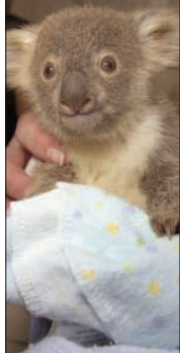
Hot air balloons inflate and lift off over thousands of people during a mass ascension on the first day of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, N.M.



Official play day

in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Students from Wood Lane School under a parachute during "Day of Play"



Koala care

Conen, a 7-month-old joey koala, gets some TLC from his keepers at the San Diego Zoo. Conen is being hand-reared by his keepers.



Changing fall foliage Fall color frames Attic Window peak on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, N.C., from just below the Blue Ridge Parkway Viaduct. Despite flooding from hurricanes Ivan and Frances, all sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway north of Linville Falls are now open as the fall viewing season begins.



Put on a happy face Sensui Nishikawa, who trained in the Nishikawa School of Nihon Buyou dancing in Nagoya, Japan, applies her makeup before heading on stage to perform a Buyou dance for students at the Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kan.



Pumpkin pickin' Holy Name School kindergartners maneuver through a pumpkin patch in search for the perfect one to take home at the Allen Farm pumpkin patch in Harness, New York.

Docs protest premiums

MD HAGERSTOWN — Physicians in a northwest Maryland county plan to halt non-emergency surgeries for at least two weeks to protest a 33 percent increase in malpractice insurance premiums.

The Maryland Insurance Administration on Sept. 14 approved the rate increase for 2005 for Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland, which insures most of the state's doctors. The move comes after a 28 percent increase this year, bringing premiums to as high as \$150,000.

Surgeries that will not get done include hernia repair, gallbladder removal, breast biopsies and colonoscopies, Riggall said. Surgeries for trauma, ruptured aneurysms and other emergencies will continue, he said.

No help for blind voters

FL JACKSONVILLE — County elections officials say they will not have touch-screen voting machines in place for blind voters by the November election, despite a federal judge's order.

Not enough time remains to obtain and test the machines — also ordered into place for the benefit of Duval County voters with certain other disabilities — before Nov. 3, according to the filing in federal court. A sworn statement by the county's assistant elections chief says preparations to install the machines would have had to start on Sept. 25, three days before the order was issued.

The judge's order stems from a 2001 lawsuit by three disabled voters who alleged the county's optical scan voting machines did not allow them to vote without the help of others.

Crash victim recovered

HI LIHUE — Rescue workers removed the last of five bodies from the wreckage of a Sept. 24 helicopter crash on a steep mountain slope in Hawaii.

Bodies of four people were retrieved last week. The helicopter was reported missing after failing to return from a tour on time. A crew on a Coast Guard helicopter spotted the crash Sept. 25.

The helicopter smashed into the side of the mountain and burned.

Town gets \$9M gift

ME SOUTH BRISTOL — A Louisiana woman who spent summers in South Bristol has left the town \$9 million in her will.

Ann Wilder Stratton, who died July 19 at the age of 80, visited the family's home in South Bristol into the 1980s. Even after she sold the family property and gave the family-owned Hogsdons Island to the Damariscotta River Association, she continued sending \$1,000 "property tax" checks to the town.

Stratton developed an affection for the people of this fishing port of 800. Still, townspeople were flabbergasted upon learning that she had bequeathed a third of her \$28 million estate to the community. No one had a clue she would leave the town such a staggering amount.

An obituary in the Shreveport Times called Stratton, a former so-

cial worker, a champion of the people. The mayor of Shreveport declared July 13, just six days before her death, as Ann Wilder Stratton Day in recognition of her community involvement.

Airport demolished

IL CHICAGO — The Federal Aviation Administration is fineing the city \$33,000 for its demolition of Meigs Field and says it is investigating whether federal funds were improperly diverted to pay for the destruction of the lake-front airport.

Mayor Richard Daley ordered the demolition March 30, 2003. Crews began bulldozing the airport's only runway late that night.

Daley had argued Meigs could have helped terrorists attack nearby landmarks such as Sears Tower, critics say he exploited terror fears to pursue his goal of making a park out of the airfield. The city, however, failed to give the FAA a required 30-day notice before it shut down Meigs Field, agency spokesmen told.

The FAA also is investigating whether \$1.5 million was improperly diverted from the O'Hare Airport Development Fund to pay for the demolition, Molinaro said. The FAA could fine the city up to \$4.5 million if it is determined the funds were improperly used and the city refuses to return the money, Molinaro said.

Not too old for surgery

RI PROVIDENCE — At 98, his heart failing, unable to walk or lie flat, John Sarafian was at a crossroads.

Chose open-heart surgery and a chance at a longer life — or acknowledge he had come to the end of road. The retired doctor chose life, and became the oldest patient to undergo the surgery at Rhode Island Hospital.

Cardiac surgeon Arun Singh performed the recent operation and said that "other than a little hearing loss, he is very young at heart." Singh predicted a full recovery.

"I know how old I am," Sarafian said. "And I knew this could be the end of the road. By the time I saw Dr. Singh, I was feeling so badly that when they said, 'When do you want the surgery?' I said, 'Right now.' The hospital said Sarafian would be released soon."

Cookie induces illnesses

GA GIBSON — Eight high school students fell ill and were taken to the hospital Friday after eating a large home-made cookie apportioned contaminated with some kind of heavy metal, authorities said.

The students, ages 14 to 17, ate the chocolate chip cookie during a morning break and immediately became nauseated and complained of severe abdominal pain, burning throats and sweats, authorities said. Two were admitted to a hospital for observation.

The cookie had been brought in by a fellow student at Glascock Consolidated School Gibson, 110 miles southeast of Atlanta.

At McDuffie Regional Medical Center in Thomson, the cookie was put through an X-ray machine, and it revealed what appeared to be "some sort of heavy metal substance," said hospital spokeswoman Debbie Jones.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The solace of the Cancer moon is featured along with the inclination to place layers of comfort between ourselves and everyone out there. Like a bird building a nest with twigs, feathers and tree fluff, we build our own personal space with the things that make us feel calm — familiar music, a filling hot dish or an entertaining television show.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 6). The year ahead finds you speaking up more often about things you usually keep to yourself, such as your personal life and your spirituality. There's a possibility that you might receive an inheritance from someone you haven't spoken to in years. A career change is followed by a romantic shift in December. Lucky love signs are Gemini and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Are you chock-full of good ideas. Think of a way to turn those flashes of inspiration into gold. It's a big world; someone out there is sure to be looking for what you've got. Do your research, or hire someone to do it for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

If you were making a movie about your life, would it be an action adventure, comedy, drama or romance? What would you edit out? How would the story end? Every day, you are writing your own script.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Slow down, and make time for touch. When was the last time you slept on satin sheets, walked barefoot on a dewy lawn, or let a cat lick you with its sandpaper tongue? There is a world of sensation waiting for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Give up the guilt complex. Your empathy is one of your most endearing qualities, but it opens you up to all manner of emotional manipulation. You are not responsible for anyone else's happiness but your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Of course, you can have it all! It's just can't have it all of the time. That's why you need to fully appreciate

your good fortune whenever it happens and for however long it lasts. Everything in life is temporary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Spurge on something frivolous. It doesn't have to be expensive, just completely unnecessary and absolutely desired. It's admirable to be careful with your money, but holding onto anything too tightly is counterproductive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Take a tour through the mind of a loved one. Are you on the same page when it comes to what's sexy? Body image? Artistic expression? You'll be amazed at what you can discover with a casual conversation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Growing up means giving up choices for the sake of other choices. Search your soul, Scorpio. Your wisdom lies in the knowledge that there are no true losses in life — only gains. Stop keeping score.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 22).

Entering into a situation with a preconceived notion will leave you still hoping. That's because then there is no room for the unexpected to occur. Perhaps the universe had something even better than you imagined in store.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Rituals create a sense of stability and security. Think about the rituals you already use. Perhaps there is a way to incorporate them into your daily interaction with others so you can call upon them in times of stress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're always in search of the most up-to-the-minute, cutting-edge gadget. But newer is not always better. There's something to be said for the old reliable and the tried and true. Get in touch with your nostalgic side.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're a smooth operator and a master negotiator. That's because fish are remarkably adaptable. So what are you waiting for? Go be the life of the party. You were born to schmooze.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



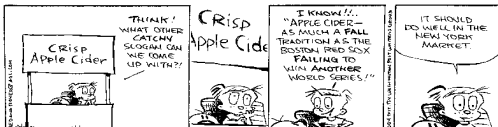
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



French connection at crossroads

Dear Abby: I am fluent in French and English. I want my daughter, "Chantal," to speak both languages. I am in a relationship with a man ("Clark") who has three children who live with him full time. I am wondering if speaking French to Chantal in front of Clark and his children is rude. My daughter's first language is French, and I have always conversed with her in French.

This has been a point of contention for some time.

I have asked Clark to make an effort to learn French, but he has no desire to, nor do his children.

There is a "closeness" factor, I believe, in sharing my mother's language (my mother is French, my father American) with my daughter, and I would like to carry it down the generations. Clark says I can talk to Chantal in French when we're alone, but that wouldn't be often. What do you think? Is this worth

ending the relationship?

Dear Fille: It's interesting that you have framed your question in black-and-white. Surely your daughter can remain fluent in French without excluding Clark and his children from your conversations.

Dear Abby



If you love him and care about his children's feelings, you can enroll your daughter in French language and literature classes, and send her to visit her French-speaking grandmother, and—if it's affordable—take her somewhere where French is the dominant language for a vacation. (If Clark and his children went along, it might inspire them to learn.)

This, in addition to spending one-on-one time with your daughter, would keep her French from getting rusty, without sacrificing a relationship with someone you care about.

P.S. Even if you end the relationship, there is no guarantee

that your daughter would continue to pass her French along to her own children.

Dear Abby: My ex-wife, "Misty," is now dating my father (who is still married to my mom, but separated). Mom blames me. She says it's all my fault because I brought Misty into the family. We have two kids. What can I do to get past all the hurt and pain? I'm depressed all the time, and it has reached the point that it is affecting my work and everyone around me. Please help.

Dear Destroyed: Your father's misbehavior and your wife's was not your fault.

Your mother blames you because she is unable to project her anger where it really belongs, which is on your father.

Both you and your mom could use counseling to work through this soap opera.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PYNOH

GEDEW

DRYBAN

BADOUN

Answer: THE

THE

Yesterday's

Jumbles: GRIEF HOIST THRIVE DISARM

Answer: What the tennis fans heard when he acted the obnoxious favorite — SERVES HIM RIGHT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Sister upends life for online lover

Dear Annie: My sister, "Carol," whom I love dearly, is self-destructing. She has been having an online affair with a guy in another state. She ditched her husband of 15 years for this guy, and the divorce was final last month.

Carol's 11-year-old daughter is not taking this well. My niece has reverted to babyish behavior. She's been throwing continual snit fits and is generally by a pill.

Carol is now making arrangements to move to another state, where her online lover is located, and plans to sue for sole custody of her daughter, despite the fact that the little girl loves her dad dearly, and all her relatives and friends live here.

My sister is a successful attorney who is very attractive and very poised. Is this some kind of midlife crisis? Why isn't she thinking of her daughter's emotional health? I'm stressing out about it — it's like seeing a train

Annie's Mailbox



wreck coming that I can't prevent. I've tried speaking to Carol, but she just gets angry and won't listen. Any advice for me? Or is it best to stay out of it?

— Worried Sister in the South

Dear Worried: It sounds as if Carol has thrown caution to the wind.

It's too bad she can't think clearly enough to

put her daughter's needs before her own. There is nothing you can do to force Carol to behave rationally, but it might help to tell her how much you love her and that you are concerned. No matter the outcome, try to be a source of support for your niece. She is going to need people to look out for her.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Anonymous Minister," who asked you to stop referring people to their clergy when they need counseling. He said the clergy isn't trained to provide

such assistance. That minister needs to speak for himself.

I attended two very prestigious seminars, have served as an ordained church pastor and am now a military chaplain. I have an extra year of graduate education in pastoral counseling and two years of hospital residence as a chaplain.

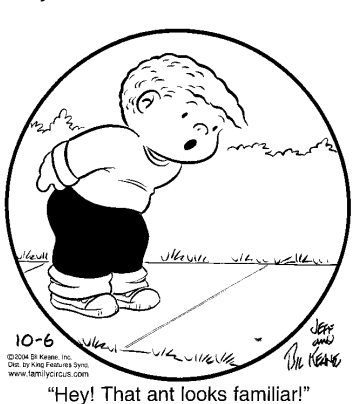
Many ministers specialize in particular areas such as marriage, parenting, divorce, addiction recovery and other forms of counseling.

Ministers, priests and rabbis are a tremendous resource in seeking comfort and confronting problems. Please help me set the record straight for my humble colleague.

— Chaplain Phil King, Lieutenant, USNR, Okinawa
Dear Chaplain King: You did a fine job on your own.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime members of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5771 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Hey! That ant looks familiar!"



Dennis the Menace



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The Far Side



"Hey, That ... You know you move lips when you look at pictures!"

Non Sequitur



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Foster, Okinawa - 5.8 GHz cordless GE phone. Very good quality and used for one month. Great phone. Asking \$200.00. Call 625-6246. I will sell for \$140.00 or best call 625-6246.

Foster, Okinawa - Whirlpool TM Refrigerator same as one at home. \$200.00. Call 625-6246. I will sell for \$140.00 or best call 625-6246.

Foster, Okinawa - Kitchenaid mixer. \$200.00. Call 625-6246. I will sell for \$140.00 or best call 625-6246.

Kadena, Okinawa - \$200.00. Call 625-6246. I will sell for \$140.00 or best call 625-6246.

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. - Pro football: Kansas City vs. Baltimore (old); or baseball playoffs: Los Angeles, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - WNBA playoffs: Eastern Conference Championship, Sacramento vs. Connecticut, Game 3, if necessary.

AFN-Atlanta, 1 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams to be determined, Game 1 (old).

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams and game number to be determined.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams and game number to be determined.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

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AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. - College football: West Virginia vs. Virginia Tech (old).

5. (8) Kurt Busch, Ford, 188, \$104,290.

12. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 188, \$104,290.

13. (14) Jeff Meacham, Chevrolet, 188, \$104,290.

14. (24) Casey Mears, Dodge, 188, \$104,290.

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Brad Bryan, \$10,500

Carson Beckman

David Evers, \$6,310

Brendan Padden

Joe Snellett, \$8,116

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Western Conference

Connecticut vs. Washington

Saturday, Sept. 25

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Saturday's games

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Chicago, 13 9 6 45 37 30

San Jose, 13 9 6 45 37 30

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Dale Earnhardt Jr., left, passes Kevin Harvick on the next-to-last lap of the EA Sports 500 at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

Victory Lane slip tarnishes triumph

Earnhardt's post-win remark might cost him points lead

The Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. was strangely subdued after his latest victory at Talladega Superspeedway.

Why? Junior put his newly acquired points lead in jeopardy by pursuing during an interview with NBC. After dominating the EA Sports 500 on Sunday to take the Nextel Cup lead, Earnhardt erred in Victory Lane, of all places. "I'm worried about losing some points," said Earnhardt, who moved into the series lead by 13 points over Kurt Busch, who finished fifth Sunday.

Asked about the significance of his fifth victory at Talladega, Earnhardt said, "I don't mean [expletive] right now. Daddy's won here 10 times."

In February at Rockingham, NASCAR president Mike Helton told drivers to watch their language on radio and television. Less than a month later, Johnny Sauter was fined \$25,000 and docked 25 points after cursing during a radio interview following the Busch Series race in Las Vegas.

"Johnny said it in a fit of anger. I said it in Victory Lane. I hope they understand that it was in jubilation and I know me and those other guys that got fined let it slip, but it's two different circumstances."

"I think that when you're happy and joyful about something and it happens, I think it's different than being angry and cursing in anger. Of course, we don't want to promote that."

NASCAR spokeswoman Denise Maloof said Nextel Cup director John Darby and vice president for competition Rob Pennington were "aware of the situation and would address it on Tuesday or Wednesday. That doesn't necessarily mean that he will be fined or lose points."

The verbal slips took some of the edge off a very big day by Earnhardt.

"I'm a little worried about that, but I've won five races that year and I'm pretty thrilled," Junior said. "I wasn't expecting to have such a great season."

Although he was at or near the front for virtually the entire race, including a race-high 78 of the 188 laps, Earnhardt needed to change from 11th place over the last five laps to the win the race.

Racing roundup

He fell behind when crew chief Tony Eury Sr. decided to gamble on two fresh right-side tires on his final pit stop.

Eury decided to take advantage of the fact that Earnhardt was already on pit road for his final stop when a yellow flag came out for a crash involving Sterling Marlin and Bobby Labonte.

Still, other drivers got ahead of Earnhardt by staying on the track or taking only fuel on their final stops during the last of five caution periods. But it made little difference once the green flag waved for lap 18.

Earnhardt, who won four straight Talladega races before being beaten by teammate Michael Waltrip here last fall, came close again in April. He finished second to Jeff Gordon in a somewhat controversial finish, with NASCAR determining that Gordon was leading when a yellow flag waved and froze the field. The race finished that way under caution to the displeasure of the spectators.

Fernandez wins IRL race; Kanaan takes points title

FONTANA, Calif. — Shortly after the checkered flag, there were two drivers and their racing teams yelling and jumping gleefully, exchanging hugs and high-fives.

Adrian Fernandez won the Toyota 400, and runner-up Tony Stewart and locked up the Indy Racing League points championship.

In an unusual but dramatic finish, Sunday at California Speedway, the drivers ran five of the last six laps under a caution flag, getting the green flag for the final pit around California Speedway on a two-mile oval.

Fernandez outdueled Kanaan in the sprint to the finish, with their cars separated by just 0.183 second about three feet — when they crossed the line.

Kanaan needed only to finish fourth at Fontana to beat second-place Dan Wheldon for the points title, with the season finale coming up Oct. 17 at Fort Worth, Texas.

Payton reports for Celtics' camp

The Associated Press

WALTHAM, Mass. — Gary Payton, the veteran guard the Boston Celtics acquired in an offseason trade with the Los Angeles Lakers, reported to training camp on Monday.

Payton, 36, had said he didn't want to play in Boston or move his family from the West Coast.

Coast. He missed an Aug. 13 deadline for his physical.

New Celtics coach Doc Rivers, who saw Payton in September in Las Vegas, had said he was hopeful that Payton would appear. Payton gives Boston an aggressive point guard who can lead the running game and play tight defense.

Payton was arrested Aug. 28 in California for suspected driving under the influence. He is scheduled to be in court on Oct. 15.

The Celtics start training camp at the University of Vermont on Tuesday.

Packers trade disgruntled CB McKenzie to Saints

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Mike McKenzie got his wish Monday when he was traded to the New Orleans Saints for a second-round pick in 2005 and a backup quarterback.

"It's time to move on," Packers coach-general manager Mike Sherman said.

Since ending his holdout without retracting his trade request three weeks ago, McKenzie has been paid more than \$485,000, but still just nine spots up against Chicago. That's not fans and teammates to wonder whether he was still holding out, but getting paid anyway.

The second-round cornerback sat out the last two games with a mysterious hamstring injury. He was left home when the Packers traveled to Indianapolis two weeks ago and wasn't on the sideline Sunday when the Packers lost to the New York Giants at home.

"Mission accomplished," McKenzie's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, told The Associated Press. "It's important to relay that there's no hard feelings on Mike's behalf. He's obviously grateful they were



DREITON FREE PRESS/AP

Newspapers in Barbados and Ireland report that Tiger Woods and his fiancée, Elin Nordegren, will marry this week in Barbados.

able to work out a deal and there's certainly not going to be any backbiting or any negativity on our behalf."

Rosenhaus said McKenzie will play under the terms of his current contract, but he hopes to have talks with Saints general manager Mickey Loomis soon about an upgrade.

The Packers acquired quarterback J.T. O'Sullivan, 25, and a second-round selection in the 2005 draft in return for McKenzie, 28, and a future conditional draft choice. The Packers have been interested in O'Sullivan since the Saints took him in the sixth round of the 2002 draft out of Cal-Davis.

McKenzie, being paid \$2.75 million this season in the middle year of a five-year, \$17.1 million deal he signed in January 2002, became upset when several cornerbacks of perceived lesser talent surpassed him in pay this offseason.

Reports: Woods to marry in Barbados this week

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — Tiger Woods says he's planning a Caribbean vacation, but Barbados is abuzz with reports that he's set to wed Swedish model Elin Nordegren this week.

Newspapers in Barbados and Ireland have reported that the two are to marry early this week at the Sandy Lane luxury resort

on the Caribbean island's west coast.

Hotel manager Wilbert Mason said he doesn't know of any plans for a wedding. But two sources who said they had knowledge of the event told The Associated Press that it was planned for Tuesday at the resort. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Barbados Daily Nation newspaper ran a story Wednesday under the headline "Tiger Woods tycoon kid at Sandy Lane."

Woods declined to confirm the reports, and when asked about a Caribbean vacation said only, "I'm ready to go giving. I'm ready to hop in that water and shoot some fish."

"All I can say is that I'm getting married in the future. I've narrowed it down to that," Woods told reporters in Ireland where he played in the American Express Championship. "I think you guys would be the last people I'd ever tell."

Woods asked Nordegren to marry him last December during a sunset walk at a game reserve in South Africa, where he was playing in the Presidents Cup.

Nordegren arrived in Barbados last Monday with four other women including her twin sister, according to an airport employee, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Injury threatens to end Clijsters' career

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Former U.S. Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne's latest left wrist problem is a new injury that is expected to end her season but probably won't require surgery.

"I'll have tests this week, her Web site said. Clijsters returned to the WTA Tour last week after five months off because of the wrist, but is still in pain during her second of her hometown Gaz de France Stars tournament.

That tournament's doctor told a newspaper that the latest injury could threaten Clijsters' future in tennis.

"This injury can mean the end of her career," Bruno Wellens said, according to Monday's edition of the Morgen. "Let's be straight: This is a drama for Kim. I hope she comes back, but I'm pessimistic."

Big shift in AP poll except on top

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

For the first time this season, The Associated Press poll received a serious shake-up — just not at the top.

Big wins by Auburn, Georgia, California and Purdue, combined with surprising losses by West Virginia, Ohio State and Fresno State helped to overhaul the media poll released Sunday.

Four of five remain the same for the third straight week, with No. 1 Southern California followed by Oklahoma, Georgia, Miami and Texas.

From there, changes were plentiful, including LSU's 11-spot drop to No. 24.

Auburn's 34-10 victory at Tennessee on Saturday moved the Ti-

gers into national title contention and to No. 6 in the rankings. That's where Auburn started last season, but 2003 didn't work out as planned, and the Tigers never lived up to the advanced billing.

Now, they are exceeding expectations.

The last time Auburn was ranked this high during the season was Oct. 12, 1997.

"We had something to prove," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville told reporters. "The Tigers' first win in Knoxville in 21 years."

Cal will head into its showdown with USC next week ranked seventh after winning 49-7 at Oregon State, despite a three-week layoff. It's the Golden Bears' best showing in the poll since they were sixth on Nov. 24, 1991.

No. 9 Purdue cracked the top

10 for the first time this season with a 41-16 victory against Notre Dame, the Boilermakers' first win at Notre Dame since 1990.

The Buckeyes and Mountaineers, top 10 teams since the pre-season, each slipped by double digits.

Ohio State was 18th after losing to Northwestern for the first time in 33 years. West Virginia's 19-13 loss at Texas Tech was also stunning, but ultimately it may have been more costly. The Mountaineers fell to 16th, and with a relatively weak Big East schedule left, they probably won't have a chance to work themselves back into the national title race.

Defending co-national champion LSU (3-2) can also say goodbye to its title hopes after losing 45-16 to Georgia.

See polls on Scoreboard, Page 24

Patriots trying to take focus off of streaks

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The Patriots have found a streak they think less of than their own: It's the four-game losing streak Miami will bring to New England next week.

"We don't look at anybody's record," safety Rodney Harrison said. "Any day we could turn it around. Hopefully, it's not Sunday."

The Patriots have won 18 consecutive games — matching the longest winning streak in NFL history — but it's not something the team likes to talk about. Coach Bill Belichick has steadfastly refused to even acknowledge that the team has a good thing going, reminding reporters — and his team — that last year doesn't matter and this one won't either if they worry about their winning streak.

New England prepares for winless Miami

"We've won three games," he said after the Patriots beat Buffalo 31-17 on Sunday.

But that's not it. The Patriots have lost in more than a year, finishing last season with 15 consecutive victories and a Super Bowl title, and then picking up right where they left off in their first three games this year. If they beat Miami on Sunday, the Patriots will separate themselves from five others who have won 18 straight — including the Dolphins who went 17-0 in 1972 and won their first game the next season.

The 1997-98 Denver Broncos, 1989-90 San Francisco 49ers and the 1933-34 and 1941-42 Chicago Bears also won 18 in a row, as did the Cleveland Browns in 1947-48 in the All-America Football Conference.

The NFL schedule-makers sent Miami to New England for the potential record-breaker. The '72 Dolphins are protective of their perfect season — popping champagne each year whenever the last unbeaten team picks up a loss — so Miami figured to bring a certain pride into the game.

But that was before Ricky Williams left and the Dolphins scrambled to replace him. Miami coach Dave Wannstedt has also shuffled quarterbacks trying to spark an offense that has scored two touchdowns while committing 14 turnovers.

Now, the Dolphins look like pushovers. Just don't try telling that to the Patriots. "They are tough, and they have always been tough. ... They are competitive in

every game," Belichick said. "I'm sure they feel like if they could eliminate those turnovers they would probably have two or three, maybe four wins here. I'm sure they are working on that. And we had better be able to do a better job at the things we didn't do a good job of (against Buffalo), and we're not going to be too happy with the outcome."

Of course, Belichick has said similar things about most of the last 18 games New England has won — some easily and some not. While he denies the existence of the streak, others just question its importance. "I don't think you're going to be talking about this 20 years from now like you hear about the '72 Dolphins," cornerback Ty Law said. "That can't be taken away from those guys. They were the first ones. All you can do is match it."

"You're talking about the '72 Dolphins. This doesn't mean a thing compared to that."

Tomlinson, Brees ignite Chargers

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Miserable at mile-high altitude a week earlier, the San Diego Chargers were sensational at sea level.

LaDainian Tomlinson had a lot to do with it, running for 147 yards and a touchdown in the Chargers' 38-17 victory over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday.

So did Drew Brees. The beleaguered quarterback threw for three touchdowns and completed 80 percent of his passes (16-for-20 for 206 yards). While the front office hasn't always been supportive of Brees, Tomlinson has been.

"I don't think there was any doubt," Tomlinson said. "I've been saying all along that Drew is going to be OK."

While Tomlinson didn't have to face a stacked line, Brees was so efficient that he didn't have to look over his shoulder.

"It was important to come out today, play well and win, absolutely," Brees said. "I knew that it had to happen."

It sure was a different result than a week earlier, when Tomlinson was held to 60 yards rushing and Brees was inefficient in a 23-13 loss in Denver.

Tomlinson, who scored on a 15-yard run in the first quarter, became the Chargers' career rushing rusher. He has 4,979 yards in four seasons, eclipsing the record of 4,972 yards by Paul Lowe, who played with San Diego from 1960-68.

"It's easier to run the football when you have holes, when you don't have to worry about the safeties," said Tomlinson, who carried just 17 times. "It just seems like everything is in slow motion."

"It was wonderful day. I would love to have many more days like that."

The Chargers (2-2) snapped a two-game losing streak. The Titans (1-3) played without quarterback



Chargers quarterback Drew Brees pumps his fist after a San Diego touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Steve McNair, who was reduced to being the emergency third quarterback after bruising his sternum in a loss to Jacksonville last week. Billy Volek took over for 27 yards and two TDs, but it wasn't enough to keep the Titans from losing their third straight.

"People have said we're one of the elite teams, but we aren't an elite team right now," Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher said.

Brees has had a tenuous grip on his job since last season. His big game came six days after rookie Philip Rivers was promoted from third-stringer to backup.

The Chargers didn't need to call on Rivers, especially after Brees and Reche Caldwell hooked up on a 58-yard TD pass that put away the Titans in the fourth quarter.

After the Titans cut a 17-point deficit to 24-17, the Chargers started on their 42. On second-and-10, Brees threw a short pass to Caldwell. Cornerback Samari Rolle went for the interception but missed. Caldwell caught the ball one-handed and threw it everybody to the left corner of the end zone for a 14-point lead with 6:42 to play.

Lynch relieved error didn't cost Broncos win

BY FRED GOODALL
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — There was relief in John Lynch's voice.

Facing Tampa Bay for the first time since the Buccaneers sent him packing in a cost-cutting move was every bit as emotional as he had imagined. With Sunday every bit as satisfying for the Denver safety, too.

"I really had to struggle to stay focused. These are the guys I played with," Lynch said Sunday after the Broncos beat the winless Bucs 16-13 to stay atop the AFC West. "I'm glad I didn't walk into the wrong locker room."

Lynch had seven tackles and will always remember the warm reception he received from fans, who supported him for 11 seasons while he was helping transform the Bucs from a laughingstock into one of the NFL's elite franchises.

He'll also never forget the potentially game-turning mistake he made against his old team, whose only TD came on a play in which the hard-hitting Lynch failed to tackle a receiver who was setting up off the ground.

Instead, Lynch merely touched Michael Clayton on the back, thinking the rookie was down. Clayton, whose helmet was knocked off when his head was buried by Lynch's knee, stood up and took off for the end zone to complete a 51-yard pass play.

Lynch, who was fined for a hit on Kansas City's Dante Hall after the Broncos' season opener, said he didn't want to risk a penalty for hitting a player on the ground.

"It's a shame. Ultimately the responsibility lays on me. I've got to tackle him," Lynch said. "There's a new league emphasis. If they're laying down and you hit them, you're going to get 15 yards. I tried to do the right thing for the first time in my career and keep [the NFL] out of my pocket, and I got a 15-yard penalty."

Fortunately for Denver (3-1), the error didn't ruin the five-point Pro Bowl selection's homecoming.

Jake Plummer threw a 5-yard TD pass to Patrick Hape, and Jason Elam kicked three field goals for the Broncos, allowing Lynch to walk off the field with a big smile on his face, albeit with weary eyes.

"I had a feeling I might play well. I try to play my heart out every week," Lynch said.

The Bucs (0-4) have lost six straight over two seasons and are off to their worst start since 1996, when they opened 0-5. Coach Jon Gruden is 1-8 in matchups with Mike Shanahan.

"It's really tough," Tampa Bay receiver Tim Brown said. "Over the years, you see some teams you know just don't have a chance of winning. They're playing good enough to win some games. We're just not winning yet."

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Tom Brady, Patriots, went 17-0 for 30 for 298 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions in their record-tying 18th straight win, 31-17 over Buffalo.

■ Byron Leftwich, Jaguars, was 29-of-41 for 318 yards and a touchdown in a 24-17 loss to the Colts.

■ Jake Delhomme, Panthers, was 23-for-38 for 308 yards in a 27-10 loss to the Falcons.



AP photos

Running backs

■ Tim Barber, Giants, ran for 182 yards on 23 carries and a 52-yard touchdown in a 14-7 win over the Packers.

■ LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers, rushed for 147 yards and one touchdown in a 38-17 win over the Titans.

■ Emmitt Smith, Cardinals, had 127 yards on 21 carries and a 29-yard TD run, and threw a 15-yard TD score in a 34-10 win over the Saints. It was his first 100-yard game since Thanksgiving 2002, when he did it for Dallas against Washington.

■ Curtis Martin, Jets, had 110 yards and a touchdown for his third straight 100-yard game and 50th of his career in a 17-9 win over the Dolphins.

■ Amos Zereoue, Raiders, had 117 yards on 14 carries and scored two touchdowns in the win of the injured Tyrone Wheatley in a 30-17 loss to Houston.

■ Jonathan Wells, Texans, ran for a career-high 105 yards and a touchdown filling in for injured Donovan Davis in a 30-17 win over Oakland.

■ Rudi Johnson, Bengals, had 123 yards on 24 carries and two touchdowns runs in a 28-17 loss to the Steelers.

Receivers

► Terrell Owens, Eagles, caught eight passes for 110 yards and a touchdown in a 30-17 win over Oakland, which he celebrated with sit-ups in the end zone.

► Andre Johnson, Texans, had 115 yards on six catches and a 15-yard touchdown in a 30-17 win over Oakland.

► Eric Decker, Bills, had 10 receptions for 126 yards and a 41-yard TD in a 31-17 loss to the Patriots.

► Muhsin Muhammad, Panthers, had seven catches for 114 yards in a 27-10 loss to the Falcons.



Smith drives Cardinals to first win of season

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — In his 15th NFL season, Emmitt Smith has added a new dimension. He threw the first 40-yard pass of the season Sunday — and it wobbled 21 yards for a touchdown in the Arizona Cardinals' 34-10 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

He also plans on it being his last pass. "I don't want to throw the ball ever again," Smith said. "If I throw another game, I want to throw to my son and let him catch it."

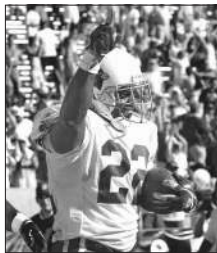
Mostly, Smith was doing what he's done so well for so long — running with the ball. He ran for 127 yards on 21 carries, including a 29-yard touchdown run.

It was his first 100-yard game since coming to Arizona from Dallas two seasons ago, but the 77th of his career, tying Walter Payton's NFL record.

Of course, Smith already had broken Payton's record for most career rushing yards, so this one seemed somewhat less momentous.

"It means more to win right now than anything," said Smith, who has seen the Cardinals go 5-15 since he signed with them.

It was his first 100-yard game since Thanksgiving 2002.



Arizona Cardinals running back Emmitt Smith celebrates after running for a touchdown during the fourth quarter on Sunday.

Smith, six months past his 35th birthday, is the first NFL player to gain more than 100 yards past 35 since Marcus Allen for Kansas City against Oakland in 1995.

The Cardinals (1-3) ran for 211 yards, all

but two in the final three quarters in their most one-sided victory since beating the Los Angeles Rams 38-10 in 1993.

Troy Hambrick, who became the Cardinals starter when Smith left and is his backup again, gained 79 yards on 16 carries, including an 11-yard TD run Sunday.

Hambrick said he wasn't surprised by Smith's game.

"People talk about him and the things he has done. He still has things to do as far as we're concerned," Hambrick said. "I think we are finding the right ways to use him. His intelligence and his ability to see things make up for what he lost over time. I think he has more in the tank than people think."

After the first quarter, Arizona outgained New Orleans 369-147.

"I think the offense is starting to show some signs of putting four wheels on the ground," Cardinals coach Dennis Green said.

With temperatures in the mid-90s, and the Saints playing outdoors for the first time this season, Smith thought the Cardinals wore the visitors down.

"You're making these guys run around and chase you. By the third or fourth quarter, you should have the big runs that you saw Troy and myself have," Smith said.

Adrian Wilson returned a fumble 35 yards for a touchdown, and Neil Rackers kicked field goals of 26 and 33 yards for Arizona.

New Orleans' Mel Mitchell blocked one punt, and recovered another for a touchdown. It was the first time the Saints had turned a blocked punt into a TD in 27 years. But otherwise it was an ugly day for the visitors.

"We're shooting ourselves in the foot," Saints receiver Joe Horn said. "We basically make other teams look like Pro Bowlers."

The Saints won a week ago in the deafening Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, but they were awful in mostly empty Sun Devil Stadium, where 28,109 tickets were distributed for the game. New Orleans was penalized 12 times for 104 yards, many of them costly.

"All three phases were accountable for the loss," coach Jim Haslett said, "and the offense was the main contributor."

Aaron Brooks completed his first four passes as the Saints drove from their 20 to inside the Arizona 1 to start the game. On third down at the 9, Brooks scrambled and was drilled at the goal line by James Darsling. On fourth-and-goal, Brooks attempted a sneak, but he lost the ball and Arizona's Gerald Hayes recovered for a touchdown.

Falcons get past Panthers to match best start ever

BY AARON BEARD

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — With their third 4-0 start in nearly two decades, the Atlanta Falcons are proving they are much more than Michael Vick's team.

Kevin Mathis had a 35-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, and Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett each ran for scores to lift the Falcons past the Carolina Panthers 27-10 on Sunday.

"That's a pretty good team win right there," said defensive end Patrick Kerney, who had two sacks to give him seven on the season. "That's how we've won all our games this year, with just a number of guys coming up with game-changing plays."

The Panthers (1-2) found a way to slow down Vick — their No. 1 nemesis — but failed to shut down anything else. The result was an easy win as the Falcons

matched the best start in franchise history in 1986.

The Falcons' defense outplayed its more-heralded counterpart, holding the Panthers to 360 total yards. Atlanta forced three turnovers, pressured Jake Delhomme often and left few running lanes for DeShaun Foster.

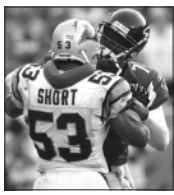
As for Vick, the quarterback had a quiet day against a team that suffered through some of his most memorable performances.

He threw for 148 yards and ran for 35, but he hardly needed to do more to stay unbeaten against Carolina in four starts.

"People are going to understand that Mike is a great player," said Dunn, who had a 38-yard TD run in the first quarter. "He's the quarterback. He's going to get all the attention. But it takes a team to win a football game."

"I think people are going to start recognizing that it's not just Mike."

Last year, Vick missed most of



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, right, and Carolina Panthers' Brandon Sholtz (53) exchange shoves on Sunday.

the regular season with a broken leg. The Falcons struggled without him, finishing 5-11.

Carolina twice turned the ball over to end almost certain scoring drives. Muhsin Muhammad fumbled on the opening drive at the Atlanta 21, and the Falcons converted it into Dunn's touchdown run.

Then Delhomme's pass was intercepted to end another opportunity on their first possession of the second half.

Turnovers, penalties help doom Redskins

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — As a NASCAR league owner, Joe Gibbs could pull one of his race cars off the track, change tires, drop in a new engine and realign the chassis.

The Washington Redskins might need a bigger overhaul.

After four games, Gibbs' team is in the pits.

NFL roundup

The Redskins lost their third straight game Sunday, watching Lee Suggs rush for one touchdown

and Jeff Garcia throw a TD pass to lead the Cleveland Browns to a 17-13 win.

Gibbs, whose celebrated return to the NFL came after dabbling in auto racing for 11 years, has his work cut out for him. The Redskins (1-3) were undisciplined and sloppy while losing to the Browns (2-2), who weren't much better.

"Right now, it's penalties, mistakes and turnovers," Gibbs said. "Because of that, we're not consistent and we sit ourselves."

Suggs, who beat out Cleveland's first three games with a neck stinger, ran for 82 yards and scored on a 3-yard run in the fourth as the Browns improved to 1-2 against the NFL.

"We wanted this game so bad," said Browns tight end Aaron Shea, who had a game-tying TD catch in the second half. "We couldn't drop to 1-3."

The Browns, who lost starters Kellen Winslow Jr. and Courtney Brown for the year with injuries, were in danger of digging a deep early season hole with a loss.

Jets 17, Dolphins 9: At Miami,

the Jets came up with four turnovers by quarterback Jay Fiedler in the second half, including an interception returned 66 yards for a touchdown by Donnie Abraham, to improve to 3-0 for only the third time in franchise history. New York also won its first three games in 1966 and 2000.

The Dolphins fell to 0-4 for the first time since their expansion season in 1966. They've scored two touchdowns this year while committing 14 turnovers and will need dramatic improvement on offense to avoid their first losing season since 1988.

New York's Curtis Martin topped 100 yards rushing for the third game in a row, and the 50th time in his career, moving into 10th place on the NFL's all-time rushing list. He totaled 110 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown, and became the 11th NFL player to rush for 12,000 yards. He has 12,094, passing Thurman Thomas, who has 12,074.

Rams 24, Ailers 14: Marc Bulger passed for 186 yards, Marshall Faulk rushed for 121 more, and St. Louis sent the woeful 49ers to their first 0-4 start in 25 years.

Isaac Bruce had seven catches for 100 yards as the visiting Rams (2-2) got their ninth victory in 11 games against their longtime rival.

This one was out of reach early: St. Louis built a 24-0 halftime lead, and the sellout crowd booted San Francisco off the field while heading for the exits.

Shaun McDonald caught a touchdown pass and Joey Goodspeed and Steven Jackson had 2-yard scoring runs for the Rams, who met little resistance while scoring on all four of their first-half drives.

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USS Kitty Hawk group may be heading home

U.S., Iraqis gather plan government

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Warmer in the Bay Area

A's and Giants, usually playing in October, are heading home

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — As usual, Barry Zito stopped his SUV to sign autographs when he drove into the players' parking lot Sunday morning on the final day of the regular season.

It was the happen next for Oakland's star pitcher that was drastically different.

He packed his locker. He took pictures of teammates around the clubhouse. And after the Athletics beat Anaheim 3-2, Zito went home for the first early winter in his five big league seasons.

"I'm just trying to get acclimated to what's going on," Zito said. "It's kind of different. It's frustrating in this position for the first time in my career."

It wasn't supposed to be this kind of day for the A's, heading home instead of the playoffs. They'd been to the postseason the past four years, losing in the first round each time.

The strange thing is, only a few hours later, the San Francisco Giants suddenly found themselves in the same scenario — though their hopes lasted one day longer than those of the A's.

Talk about a Bay Area bummer.

Both teams made the playoffs the past two seasons, and in 2000.

The A's advanced in 2001, and the Giants fell six outs short of winning the World Series in 2002 before falling to Anaheim in seven games.

This marks the first time since 1999 that neither Bay Area team reached the postseason.

There was a sign in the A's clubhouse reminding players to salute the fans after the game. They were handed travel checks for their trips home.

Veteran utilityman Mark McLemore, who turns 40 on Monday and plans to retire, carried the lineup card to home plate in place of manager Ken Macha.



For the first time five seasons in the major leagues, Barry Zito is heading home instead of into the playoffs with the Oakland Athletics. The elimination of the San Francisco Giants in the National League left the Bay Area without a playoff representative for the first time since 1999.

"With me, I'm extremely calm, cool and collected at times like that," McLemore said later. When I get away from everybody else is when things like that hit me. What it will be like tomorrow, I don't know."

Down in Southern California, a few Giants players watched the early part of the Colorado Rockies-Houston Astros game on television in the clubhouse about two hours before San Francisco played the NL West-champion Los Angeles Dodgers, who clinched the division on Saturday.

Once Houston beat Colorado 5-3, the Giants, too, were done. San Francisco finished the season with a 10-0 victory over the Dodgers, but it didn't matter.

"We're getting dressed and going home," first baseman J.T. Snow said. "We wanted to go out and play some more, obviously, but the Dodgers played better than we did. They won the games when they counted, and they're moving on..."

"You never want to be in a position where you need to have somebody else help you out, but I had our chance yesterday. That's why every game is important in a season."

Barry Bonds saw the final

score and packed up his stuff and left the dugout. Dustan Mohr came out to replace him in the bottom of the fourth. Manager Felipe Alou had said he'd remove some of his regulars if the team's fate had been decided.

Bonds finished the year with 45 homers, giving him 703 for his career and leaving him 11 shy of tying Babe Ruth for second in baseball history. Hank Aaron is first with 755. Bonds also walked 232 times.

"I played more games than I've ever played in my 40s, and it wore me down," said Bonds, probably headed for a record seventh NL MVP. "But we were still winning. My hitting or not hitting didn't have anything to do with what happened."

When highlights of the Astros' victory over the Rockies were shown on the video scoreboard after the fifth inning in Oakland, there were more boos than cheers from A's fans — who usually count the Giants as the enemy. For a sport manager's record to be used to winning baseball, it quickly became a sad day.

"I know one thing: If I walk out of here and we don't make the playoffs, my head won't be hanging," Alou said.

The A's and Giants finished with identical 91-71 records.

Seattle fires Melvin after 99-loss season

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bob Melvin was fired as manager of the Seattle Mariners on Monday, a day after the team ended the season with its 99th loss.

Melvin, who lasted two seasons, was told of the decision during a morning meeting at Safeco Field, and General Manager Bill Bavasi called a news conference for later in the day.

In May, the Mariners exercised the option on Melvin's contract for 2005 despite a 9-16 start. He led the team to a 93-69 record in 2003 after Lou Piniella left for Tampa Bay.

In a news release, Bavasi said it was a difficult decision to fire Melvin. He credited the manager, his coaches and the team for playing hard and trying to win through the end of the season.

"This decision is not meant to place blame completely on Bob. There is plenty of blame to go around for all of us," Bavasi said. The Mariners left spring training expecting to contend for a playoff spot. Instead, they finished 63-99 and barely avoided their first 100-loss season since 1994.

"What can you do? Anytime a team struggles the way we have this year, you have to make some changes somewhere," Melvin said Sunday. "I'll just play a day at a time. If I'm here, I'm here. It would be great."

Melvin was not immediately available for comment Monday.



Melvin

The front office also told most of the coaching staff — hitting coach Paul Molitor, bench coach Rene Lachemann, first base coach Mike Al-drete, third base coach Dave Myers and bullpen coach Orlando Gomez — they are free to pursue other jobs, though each remains under contract with Seattle through Oct. 31.

The exception is pitching coach Bryan Price, who is under contract with the club through 2005.

It was the team's worst season since going 64-98 in 1992. The Mariners last had a losing season in 1999, when they were 79-83.

They had won at least six games every year since, and they tied an AL record by winning 116 games in 2001.

Some of Seattle's biggest problems can't be attributed directly to Melvin.

The Mariners ranked last in the American League in runs scored (857), RBIs (658) and home runs (136). Injuries in the bullpen, most notably to right-hander Rafael Soriano, didn't help.

Before joining the Mariners, Melvin spent two seasons as bench coach in Arizona and the Indians, with the club during its World Series title in 2001. He also held the same job in Detroit (2000) and Milwaukee (1999).

Divisionals: Angels hoping to rekindle 2002 magic

DIVISIONALS, FROM BACK PAGE

San Francisco for the wild card by beating Colorado 5-3. Houston completed a startling turnaround by winning its 18th straight home game.

"People thought we were dead in the water and we worked all the way back and changed that," manager Phil Garner said. "This is just a great ending to what became an improbable year for us."

Houston was 56-60 on Aug. 14, about a month after Garner replaced the fired Jimmy Williams, and trailed Chicago by seven games in the wild-card race. The next day, the Astros rallied for three runs in the ninth inning to beat Montreal 5-4.

"Hopefully, we'll use that as a springboard for some more days of wins like that," Garner said after that victory.

That's exactly what happened. Now, the Astros face a familiar October opponent — the Braves best Houston in the first round in 1997, 1999 and 2001.

Clemens (18-4) faces Jarret Wright (15-8) in the opener. Roy Oswalt, the NL's only 20-game winner, pitches Game 2 for Houston.

"I think we've got them right

where we want them," Astros owner Drayton McLain. "I really want those guys. We've done everything unconventional this year. So maybe we'll do it again in the playoffs."

Last year's teams have won the World Series titles, with Anaheim followed by Florida. Like the Astros, the Red Sox hope to make a push from the fourth playoff spot.

Schilling (21-6) starts against the Angels' Jarrod Washburn in the opener, then Pedro Martinez pitches Game 2 for the Red Sox.

"I don't think anybody wants to play us," Boston first baseman Kevin Millar said.

The Cardinals had the best record in the majors at 105-57. They went 4-2 against the Dodgers, sweeping them in a three-game series Sept. 3-5 in St. Louis.

"This is going to be a tough series," a fun series," said Woody Williams, who starts the opener for St. Louis. "I look at their team and see a lot of us in them, and them in us."

In a rematch from the first round last year, the Twins take on the Yankees. Minnesota ace Johan Santana (20-6) opposes Mike Mussina in the opener.

Jays keeping manager Gibbons

The Associated Press

TORONTO — John Gibbons will return as manager of the Toronto Blue Jays next season.

Gibbons was given a one-year contract Monday after guiding the last-place Blue Jays to a 20-30 record during the final eight weeks of the season. He took over as interim manager on Aug. 8, when Carlos Tosca was fired after the team opened 47-64.

General Manager J.P. Ricciardi liked Gibbons' upbeat attitude and how he handled the bullpen.

"We're just going to see. Hopefully, as things go forward we'll extend it," Ricciardi said of Gibbons' contract.



Briefs

The 42-year-old Gibbons had been the Blue Jays' first-base coach since Tosca took over from Buck Martinez on June 3, 2002.

Gibbons, a former catcher who had 50 career at-bats spanning 18 games with the New York Mets in 1984, '86 and '87, spent seven seasons as a minor league manager with the Mets, working his way up to Triple-A Norfolk. He compiled a 482-420 record in the minors, then joined Toronto as its bullpen catcher in 2002.

"I've been called a players' manager. I guess you could say I

am," Gibbons said. "I understand the struggles of the game as a player."

One of his minor league teammates was Riccardi, who is modeling the Blue Jays after his previous employer — the small-market Oakland Athletics.

Toronto finished 67-95, its most losses since 1980 (67-95).

White Sox re-sign Polite

CHICAGO — Reliever Cliff Polite agreed Monday to a one-year, \$11 million extension through next year with the Chicago White Sox.

Polite went 0-3 with a 4.38 ERA in 54 relief appearances this season, his first with the White Sox.

SPORTS



Defending BCS champion
LSU plummets to No. 24
after loss to Georgia, Page 25

Catch 22? Not this time



Arizona Cardinals running back Emmitt Smith picks up yardage against the New Orleans Saints Sunday in Tempe, Ariz. Smith had the 77th 100-yard rushing game of his career, tying Walter Payton's career record. He also threw his first touchdown pass in the Cardinals' 34-10 victory. See Page 27 for more.

Deep, deep divisionals

First round of MLB playoffs set

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

Now that the postseason matchups are set, it's time for the predictions. Leading off, Odalis Perez. "If we beat St. Louis, we're going to win the World Series," the Los Angeles pitcher said Sunday. "If we beat them, this is it: Dodgers, champions."

Perez will get a chance to do his part, starting Tuesday against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium.

Later in the day, Curt Schilling and the Boston Red Sox visit Anaheim. That night, the Minnesota Twins will be at Yankee Stadium.

"We'll be ready to play," New York manager Joe Torre said

after wrapping up a weekend in Toronto.

"These three days

off did us some good after playing such an intense month. We're ready to get back to competition."

On Wednesday, the other series starts with Roger Clemens and the Houston Astros playing at Atlanta.

The final day of the regular season began with one playoff spot open and all four matchups still to be decided.

Everything got firm up in the AL once the Twins lost to Cleveland — there had been a chance Minnesota would host Boston.

When the Astros won to take the NL wild card, all of the post-season pairings were set — no need for any tiebreakers this year.

The Astros eliminated any need for a one-game playoff with

SEE DIVISIONALS ON PAGE 31



Baseball's postseason begins

Schedules for the AL and NL divisional series, with scheduled AFN-TV broadcast times. Later air dates to be determined. All times are Japan and Korea Standard:

American League

New York vs. Minnesota
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Minnesota (Carlton 2-0) at New York
(Mossina 12-9), 9 a.m. Wednesday, AFN-Atlantic.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Minnesota (Radtke 11-2) at New York (Lieber 14-6), 8 a.m. Thursday, AFN-Atlantic.

Friday, Oct. 8
New York (Hammels 8-2 or Brown 10-4) at Minnesota (Siva 14-9)

Saturday, Oct. 9
New York at Minnesota, if necessary

Sunday, Oct. 9
Minnesota at New York, if necessary

Monday, Oct. 11
Anahelm vs. Boston

Tuesday, Oct. 5
Boston (Schilling 21-5) at Anaheim (Washburn 11-8), 5 a.m. Wednesday, AFN-Sports.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
Boston (Martinez 16-9) at Anaheim (Colton 18-12), 4 p.m. Thursday (dG), AFN-Sports.

Friday, Oct. 8
Anahelm (Escobar 11-12) at Boston (Arroyo 10-9 or Wakefield 12-10)

Saturday, Oct. 9
Anahelm at Boston, if necessary

Sunday, Oct. 10
Boston at Anahelm, if necessary

National League

St. Louis vs. Los Angeles
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Los Angeles (Perez 7-6) at St. Louis (W. Williams 11-4), 2 a.m. Wednesday, AFN-Sports.

Thursday, Oct. 7
Los Angeles (Weaver 11-11) at St. Louis (Marquis 15-5)

Saturday, Oct. 9
St. Louis (Morris 15-10) at Los Angeles (Lima 13-5)

Sunday, Oct. 10
St. Louis (Suzanne 15-9) at Los Angeles (Perez 7-6), if necessary

Monday, Oct. 11
Los Angeles at St. Louis, if necessary

Atlanta vs. Houston
Wednesday, Oct. 6

Houston (Clemens 18-4) at Atlanta (Wright 15-8), 5 a.m. Thursday, AFN-Sports.

Thursday, Oct. 7
Houston (Gswalt 20-10) at Atlanta (Thomson 14-8), 5 a.m. Friday, AFN-Sports.

Saturday, Oct. 9
Atlanta (Hampton 12-5) at Houston

Sunday, Oct. 10
Atlanta at Houston, if necessary

Monday, Oct. 11
Houston at Atlanta, if necessary

Cursing
could
cost
Earnhardt
Nextel
points
lead
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Melvin
fired
after
Mariners
struggle
through
99-loss
season
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Payton reports
on time
to Celtics
training camp
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